Hafa Adai! Salpan Iribune Volume XXX, Issue No. 26

Volume XXX, Issue No. 26

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2020

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By LISA MASCARO, MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER

ASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump won impeachment acquittal Wednesday in the U.S. Senate, bringing to a close only the third presidential trial in American history with votes that split the country, tested civic norms and fed the tu-

RELATED NEWS

- Trump wins acquittal, but Ukraine saga far from over. PAGE 19
- Sen. Mitt Romney breaks with GOP, votes to convict Trump.

PAGE 19

multuous 2020 race for the White House. See TRUMP on Page 4

That's the bleak scenario

See NMTI on Page 4

facing the CNMI's lone trade

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres released the following statement regarding the acquittal of President Donald J. Trump on impeachment charges:

"I commend the U.S. Sen-

ate for making the right decision today in the acquittal of President Donald J. Trump. It has been clear from the very beginning that this process was designed to make the

President look bad and for the Democrats to score political points during an election year.

Beyond politics, the President has worked very hard

See TORRES on Page 4

Austerity measures announced today

>>> Torres administration assures retirees will **get 100%** pensions



Bautista

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE REPORTER

The Torres-Palacios administration is expected to make an announcement today, Friday, about the implementation once again of temporary austerity measures, even as it assures that retirees will continue to get 100% of their pensions.

See AUSTERITY on Page 4

By JUSTINE NAUTA



Without the infusion of gov-

LOCAL

Sherwood has moved to its new location at the Spring Plaza in Gualo Rai.

NMTI at risk of closing in March

Marianas Technical Institution

only has enough money to last

this February and would close

ernment funds, the Northern by March.

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WORLD

A Turkish airliner skidded off a runway and broke apart, killing three people.

PAGE 21



LIFE & STYLE

Kirk Douglas, the intense, muscular actor with the dimpled chin died Wednesday.

PAGE 24



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2 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Local

Guerrero fears Japan, Korea might also close borders due to outbreak

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie delatorre@saipantribune.com

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) fears that, sooner or later, the Japan and Korean governments may decide to close their borders as to prevent the entry of the coronavirus outbreak.

He said this is not a remote possibility and the econom-

ic impact on the CNMI is going to be felt not just by government employees but also in the private sector.

Guerrero, chairs the House Commerce and Tourism Com-

mittee, said in an interview Wednesday that a country does not want to send its people out if people are infected.

"Because you don't know if they are carrying that virus. They are saying that it's 14 days incubation period before anyone is detected," he said.

China Eastern Airlines, Sichuan Airlines, Beijing Capital Airlines, and Hong Kong Express have already suspended

due to the virus outbreak.

Guerrero said the CNMI government is not the only one that will feel the impact and that even the private sector will probably be adjusting the work hours of its employees.

"As a community we need to figure out how to brace for the storm," said the lawmaker, adding that the busi-

ness community

is going to feel the pinch because the hotels' main clients are tourists and that is going to spill to other areas of the private sector. Guerrero is just

hoping that the coronavirus outbreak won't reach the CNMI because that would be devastating for a small community. "You can't compare yourself to big countries where they have a big population," he added. "We're so fortunate and lucky that we don't have it here. It would affect the CNMI entirely from an economic standpoint. Because our only industry, tourism, is [going





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Census moves to locating homes

The 2020 Census has already moved to the second phase of its operations in the CNMI: the address listing phase, which involves mapping the many homes in the CNMI.

Lorenza Aldan, the 2020 Census' assistant manager of field operations, said that, as of today, their enumerators are going around and compiling a list of all the places in the CNMI where people may be living or staying, so that they can return there next month to conduct interviews.

Aldan hopes to end the second phase by the end of February so that they could move on to start counting the population.

According to U.S Census Bureau representative and adviser to the CNMI Colleen Joyce, they will ship the information back to the Census Bureau's processing center in Indiana. It will then get scanned, digitized, and put together so that the CNMI Census office can start creating the cumulative statistics.

According to Joyce, if a enumerator comes a vacant lot, it will get listed and will get checked on during the third phase in case someone moved in after they checked the first time.

"At this stage that we're currently in, if there are any questions that the enumerators have, we kindly ask that the people that are living in that area be open and welcoming to those conversations," said Aldan.

Every enumerator that is going out into the field will have two badges so that they can be easily identified and they also have a Census car decal with them to show that they are Census employees.

During the interview phase of the census, residents will be asked questions regarding housing, people who are currently living with you, and other private information. Aldan assured that all information will be kept confidential and nothing gets published or shared with the government, public, or private sectors. Violators will be fined up to \$250,000 and could face jail time.

"All the personal identifiable information gets coated [and] they're not privy to that information," said Aldan.

"They replace the name with a number, then use it to be able to aggregate it with your neighbors to create a statistic for the larger community," added Joyce.

Census won't be asking questions about citizenship, how you got to the CNMI, social security number, and other personal information.

Aldan advises the public to tie up their dogs as the field workers are going around to collect physical descriptions of each house that they're assigned to. (Justine Nauta)



Spotlight on recycled art and ukulele music

By BEA CABRERA beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com

Today marks **SPOTLIGHT** the first Friday of the

month. At Marianas Creations Cafe along Micro Beach Road, that means putting the spotlight on local artists and musicians. For today, take time to discover homegrown artists from the Saipan International School Art Club with their recycled art and musicians from Marianas High School, the Hui Ukelele Club.

Amie McRoberts has been teaching at SIS for 12 years already and four years of that was focused on Environmental Art with her senior high school students. "It is a yearlong class where we only use recycled materials. We go around the island and whatever is in abundance of, we take it to the class and, from there, we figure out what types of projects we can do with our finds," she said.

The art that is on exhibit at MC Café highlights the use of used wine

Also today, the Marianas Cre-



Saipan International School environmental art teacher Amie McRoberts holds two art pieces made by her senior high school students on exhibit at Marianas CreationsCafé.



The Hui Ukulele Club of Marianas High School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Press secretary Kevin Bautista did not mention, however, whether the administration will give or not to the retirees the 25% benefit payments not required in the Betty Johnson's class action settlement agreement.

ations Café will feature the music of

Hui Ukelele Club, and the club's 15

players will serenade the café's guest

"This is a great opportunity for

small clubs like us to be out there

because we usually just perform in

school around students. Now, we are

performing in public," said Marianas

High School junior Maxine Rabago,

who is the president of the Hui Uku-

for the American people, prioritizing

the development of our workforce,

strengthening our infrastructure,

growing our economy, and helping

"President Trump has always been

a true friend to the CNMI. Under his

leadership, he ensured the passage of

the NMI U.S. Workforce Act, which

saved our economy and the jobs of

thousands of U.S. workers. In our

most recent 902 consultations, the

President worked closely with my ad-

ministration to protect our national se-

curity interests and our access to eco-

nomic resources and opportunities.

starting at 7:30pm.

lele Club.

TORRES

working families.

From Page 1

Bautista said yesterday that the closure of the CNMI's second largest tourism market, China, for the rest of the fiscal year, means a loss of about 150,000 tourists, which would result in a revenue loss of about \$40 million to \$50 million.

Bautista said the initial conservative estimate first pegged the loss at \$35 million to \$40 million but that number has since been adjusted to about \$50 million. As of yesterday, the Department of Finance was still working on finalizing the hard numbers, he said.

Part of what will be announced today, Friday, is the number of working hours that will be cut during the austerity, said Bautista.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) earlier disclosed that the administration is going to implement austerity measures, this time cutting employee work hours from the regular 80 hours to 64—a deduction of 16 hours.

Yesterday, Bautista said they're preparing a letter that will indicate the cut hours and a directive to all department agencies to temporarily implement austerity measures once again. The last time the administration implemented austerity measures—payless Fridays—was in July 2019 and was only lifted in December 2019. It involved a modified 72hour work schedule.

Babauta said that, as Torres mentioned in a recent speech, the administration is putting all options on the table to prepare for the economic loss as a result of the coronavirus outbreak in the region.

Those options include reinforce-

"We will mostly focus on songs from the Hawaiian culture because that is where the ukulele is from; the ukulele was made for those types of songs," she added.

The Hui Ukulele Club was created just two years ago.

Meet and greet the SIS environmental art class students and MSH Hui Ukulele Club from 6pm to 9pm. Marianas Creations Café is open from 7:30am to 10pm.

importantly, President "Most Trump supported the CNMI during a time of great need in 2018 when Super Typhoon Yutu devastated our islands—the strongest storm to hit U.S. soil in over 80 years. Through his administration, federal first responders were on the ground to help our island residents get back on their feet. That support continues to this

"I continue to support him because he has truly looked out for all of us here in the CNMI. I am proud to call Donald J. Trump my President, and I look forward to his re-election and four more years of his presidency." (PR)

ment of cost-containment measures,

reviewing the tax structure, and re-

day as we rebuild homes, schools,

and public facilities, while hardening

our infrastructure.

AUSTERITY

From Page 1

When it comes to dealing with the retirees' pensions, Bautista said the Torres administration, working with the Legislature, has always prioritized the pensions of retirees since the beginning to ensure that they receive their full pensions.

duction of work hours.

With the economic circumstances facing the CNMI right now, Bautista said they are looking at how they can make up for the loss of hours among government employees, while ensuring that they do not touch the retirees' pensions.

Bautista noted that the Torres administration has contributed upwards of \$200 million to the Settlement Fund to ensure that the retirees receive 100% of their pensions.

"And that's the promise that the governor personally handles himself, along with the rest of the administration, Secretary of Finance, and Legislature leadership," he said.

The press secretary said they are still reviewing the numbers to ensure that will be able to ensure the full pensions of retirees.

He pointed out that, at the end of the day, payments to the Settlement Fund is a mandated court judgment that the government has to pay.

"We are doing our very best. Announcement of the final numbers after we finalize our determination on the cost analysis will be out [today]. Bautista said.

Bautista said that given the economic climate that the CNMI is in, both the administration and the Legislature are all hands-on-deck to make the cuts necessary to keep the government afloat and to keep the tourism industry intact.

He said the Torres administration and Marianas Visitors Authority, along with the business community, are advocating for the whole community to continue to promote the Marianas as a coronavirus-free destination.

TRUMP

From Page 1

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, senators sworn to do "impartial justice" stood and stated their votes for the roll call—"guilty" or "not guilty"—in a swift tally almost exclusively along party lines. Trump, the chief justice then declared, shall "be, and is hereby, acquitted of the charges."

The outcome followed months of remarkable impeachment proceedings, from Speaker Nancy Pelosi's House to Mitch McConnell's Senate, reflecting the nation's unrelenting partisan divide three years into the Trump presidency.

What started as Trump's request for Ukraine to "do us a favor" spun into a far-reaching, 28,000-page report compiled by House investigators accusing an American president of engaging in shadow diplomacy that threatened U.S. foreign relations for personal, political gain as he pressured the ally to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden ahead of the next election.

No president has ever been removed by the Senate.

A politically emboldened Trump had eagerly predicted vindication, deploying the verdict as a political anthem in his reelection bid. The president claims he did nothing wrong, decrying the "witch hunt" as an extension of special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Russian 2016 campaign interference by those out to get him from the start of his presidency.

Trump's political campaign tweeted videos, statements and a cartoon dance celebration, while the president himself tweeted that he would speak Thursday from the White House about "our Country's VICTORY on the Impeachment Hoax."

However, the Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said there will always be "a giant asterisk next to the president's acquittal" because of the Senate's quick trial and Republicans'

unprecedented rejection of witnesses.

A majority of senators expressed unease with Trump's pressure campaign on Ukraine that resulted in the two articles of impeachment. But two-thirds of them would have had to vote "guilty" to reach the Constitution's bar of high crimes and misdemeanors to convict and remove Trump from office. The final tallies in the GOP-held Senate fell far short.

On the first article of impeachment, abuse of power, the vote was 52-48 favoring acquittal. The second, obstruction of Congress, also produced a not guilty verdict, 53-47.

Only one Republican, Mitt Romney of Utah, the party's defeated 2012 presidential nominee, broke with the GOP.

Romney choked up as he said he drew on his faith and "oath before God" to vote guilty on the first charge, abuse of power. He voted to acquit on the second.

All Democrats found the president guilty on the two charges.

NMTI

From Page 1

school, with NMTI chief executive officer of Agnes McPhetres saying that they are still waiting for the government to approve their budget for fiscal year 2020, to avoid discontinuing the program.

In an interview with McPhetres, she criticized what she described as the government neglecting to prioritize NMTI. If funding the institution is not expedited, McPhetres will have no choice but to close NMTI's doors.

'We have enough funding until the end of February and then I have nothing," said McPhetres.

That means the institution has only three weeks remaining before they are left with no choice but to shut down until further notice.

McPhetres remains confident, though, that the government will not let it go that far and push this issue to

"I don't foresee it [NMTI] collapsing," said McPhetres. "If we do, then the government really failed the community."

According to Saipan Iribune archives, the fees that employers pay under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program is NMTI's only financial source for program operations as they do not receive local appropriations in the annual budget. The last budget proposal for fiscal year 2020 did contain a provision that would allot a budget to NMTI but that portion of the budget was later vetoed by the governor, according to

McPhetres said the Legislature has to find money since this is their new obligation. "If we were still private, then the board of director and myself would be the ones to worry, but now this is the baby of the government and they forgot about this new baby,"

NMTI was able to make ends meet with the money that they didn't use in the last fiscal year. That helped them get through from September through December of 2019. After December, they had no money until McPhetres wrote the governor that she may have no choice but to close the school. That prompted Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to give NMTI \$300,000 in order to let the institution continue operations for another two months or about three payrolls.

McPhetres said that that amount is not an allocated funding for the institution but a loan that she would have to return once the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program funding circulates back to them.

Jury trial begins for alleged overstaying Chinese tourist

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

The trial of a man who was caught allegedly overstaying on a tourist visa started yesterday at the US District Court for the NMI, soon after the completion of the jury selection.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona selected 11 female jurors and one male juror for the trial of Xinzhou Ren.

Manglona then called for an overnight recess and said the trial would continue today at 8am, with both parties presenting their opening statements.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, Ren is an overstaying Chinese tourist arrested for allegedly lying to a federal agent that he had fled China because of fear that he would be persecuted or harmed due to his religious affiliation. Ren allegedly admitted to a federal agent that he did not have such fear and was, in fact, staying in the CNMI for other reasons.

Ren is charged with making false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement.

DHS Homeland Security Investigations special agent Nicole Sively stated in her affidavit in support of the criminal complaint that during an administrative interview on May 13, 2019, Ren stated that he told the officers at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport that he was on Saipan as a visitor.

Sively said that, according to Ren, he used that as an excuse because he wanted to escape China.

Ren stated he was not arrested in China, but was wanted by the police in Hebei Province, China, in 2015.

Ren also allegedly stated that he left China because his government persecuted him due to his religion. The defendant stated he feared he would be harmed if he returns to China.

Sively said Ren later admitted he did not have such fear and was staying in the CNMI for other reasons. Sively said Ren was then released from HSI custody and scheduled for service of immigration documents at a later date.

Ren then presented himself at the Enforcement and Removal Operations Office on Saipan, requesting the return of his passport and presenting a copy of his passport and an itinerary with booking information for a flight to China.

Sively said she requested

that Ren report back to the HSI Office where he presented the HSI personnel with a copy of his passport, a receipt in the amount of \$535, and an itinerary for departure from Saipan.

Ren also provided the HSI personnel with a sworn statement confirming that he had told Sively that he fled China because of fear that he would be persecuted or harmed due to his religious affiliation.

Sively said Ren told her that he no longer wished to "claim asylum" and wanted to return to China. Ren was then arrested.

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TO ENCOURAGE AIRLINES TO CONTINUE SERVICING CNMI

Attao's bill seeks to suspend aviation fuel tax payments

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

To encourage airlines to continue servicing the Commonwealth, House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) suspend aviation fuel tax payments during a state of significant emergency in the in the CNMI. Reps. Joel C. Commonwealth.

Attao's House Bill 21-102 will add a new subsection in the statute to indicate the suspension of aviation fuel tax during declared emergency Camacho, Luis John DLG Castro, Marco T. Peter, John P. Sablan, and Ralph N. Yumul

have signed on as the legislation's co-authors.

The proposed subsection states that during a period of a declaration of significant emergency affecting air travel to the Commonwealth, and 60

days thereafter, the amount of aviation fuel tax imposed by the statute shall be excluded in the price of aviation fuel sold to international air carriers.

The seller of avia- Attao tion fuel may apply

with the Finance secretary for a tax credit for the amount of the aviation fuel tax excluded from the price of aviation fuel sold to international carriers during the period of significant emergency and 60 days after.

Attao said the request to suspend the arrivals of travelers from mainland China may be a prudent move to protect the health and welfare of the people living and visiting the CNMI but it will have an adverse financial effect on the airlines, and in turn negatively affect the CNMI's economy.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres recently declared a significant state of emergency to address the medical issues associated with the coronavirus outbreak and the potential medical threat to the CNMI.

With Torres already taking steps to address the urgent medical issues, Attao's legislation is being positioned as the legislative counterpart to mitigate the economic ramifications of that decision on the

CNMI's travel industry partners and the economy. The speaker said

that a fuel tax suspension should serve as an incentive for air carriers and mitigate the economic effects

resulting from the emergency by reducing the costs of the airlines.

"It is our hope that, by reducing the costs to our airline partners, we will facilitate and maintain the status quo and potentially encourage them to increase their services to the CNMI and pass the realized savings to our tourists who ultimately drive the travel demand," Attao said.

The legislation allows for the immediate benefit to be realized by the purchaser of aviation fuel by mandating that the fuel price to be paid shall be reduced by the amount of tax imposed and included in the purchase price associated with the Commonwealth Code.

Attao said because they realize that the tax paid by the seller has already been paid to the CNMI, this legislation also provides that "the seller who has properly reduced the price of the aviation fuel... may apply for a tax credit for the amount that it paid on the fuel that was sold tax-free.'





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From left, Veterans Affairs Honolulu Regional Office benefit supervisor Eric S. Gaskins, CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. lakopo, Veterans Affairs Honolulu regional office director Sergio S. Chao.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In a bid to strengthen connections with concerned agencies in the U.S. mainland and improve services provided to CNMI veterans, CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo recently met with Veterans Affairs Honolulu Regional Office benefit supervisor Eric S. Gaskins and Veterans Affairs Honolulu regional office director Sergio S. Chao, who is responsible for the delivery of VA benefits and services to veterans and their dependents in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI.

Their discussions included how to improve disability compensations for CNMI veterans and how disabled veterans in the CNMI could avail of travel reimbursements, especially for those who need to travel off-island for their medical needs.

Iakopo said the Torres administration understands that many veterans are struggling to make ends meet, which makes it very difficult to pay for their airfare and accommodations when traveling for their healthcare appointments. He assured CNMI veterans he is working on helping alleviate those costs.

In addition, Iakopo also made a request to increase claims and compensation visits by veterans service officers to the CNMI, which was approved by the VA Regional Office.

"In the past, VSOs would only visit the CNMI four times a year and were limited to daytime appointments. Now they will be visiting the CNMI once a month to assist our veterans with their claims for appeal and will be available for night sessions to accommodate our veterans who have day jobs," Iakopo said.

At the moment, eligible veterans may qualify for VA disability benefits for physical conditions (like chronic illness or injury) and mental health conditions (like PTSD) that developed before, during, or after their service in the military. Eligible veterans with a service-connected disability can qualify for a monthly tax free-free VA disability compensation benefit ranging from \$133 to over \$3,400 a month.

"We humbly urge all our veterans to please visit our local VA office to avail of any assistance they may need," said Iakopo. "This office was established for you and your families and we assure you that our administration will continue to work with our federal partners to provide the best possible quality of services available."

Veterans can visit the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill or call (670) 664-2650/51 to schedule an appointment. Veterans can also apply for disability benefits online via at www. benefits.va.gov. (*PR*)

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MTEC SUPPORTER

Hawaiian First donates \$1,000 to the Marianas Tourism **Education Council** on Feb. 3, 2020, at the bank's Oleai branch. In photo, from left, are Dave Guerrero, FHB assistant vice president & business banking officer Oleai branch; Rita C. Agulto, FHB personal banker: MTEC treasurer Robert Ryan Yulo; MTEC secretary Martin Duenas; and Vickie N. Izuka, FHB assistant vice president & branch manager Gualo Rai Branch. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Scheduled power outage today, Fri.

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, Feb. 7, 2020, from 3pm to 6pm that will affect Sadog Tasi.

The sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 1 and 4 distribution circuit will affect the Laguna Drive, Trenchera Lane, and Nonak Drive in Sadog Tasi.

The following water wells may also be affected based on the level of the tank supplying water to these areas: SQ-9, SQ-5, SQ-10, RP-1 and SQ-11 (Garapan, Navy Hill, Sadog Tasi, As Mahetog, China Town, Puerto Rico and Lower Base.

No wastewater lift station will be affected.

The purpose of the scheduled power interruption is to de-energize utility lines to allow linemen of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to safely resag the low primary lines within the affected areas. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/ComrnonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). (PR)



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hotmail.com.

here in Spring Plaza Gualo Rai. It's a good change as the location is better," Jin added.

Jin can state all of the products he sells with eyes closed as he handles the store person-

ally. "We have home and car electronics, television, laptops, tablets, kitchen items

such as refrigerators, dishwasher, etc. You can find all our electronics needs here, whether it is for home or office," he said.

JIn claims to have no secret when it comes to his store's staying power and being in business for so long. "We just offer the best quality products like Kenwood and Sony, to name a few, direct from the [U.S.] mainland. ...That's why customers come back because they're getting their money's worth," he said.

Jin said that he doesn't com-

pare his pricing system with other stores that sell similar products. "I always give the best price and my customers know that. Right now, we have an ongoing sale for various

items [where] we give 10% to 15% discount on various items." "Over the

years, when-

ever I see a customer come back to the store, that tells me that that person was satisfied with his or her earlier purchase. We don't compromise on the quality of our products and the items comes with warranty," he added.

Sherwood is open from Monday to Friday from 10am to 7pm, and on Saturday from 10am to 6pm. For more information, call (670) 235- 1470 and (670) 235-1472 or email kncorp7@hotmail.com.



Sherwood has a broad inventory of appliances and electronics



Sherwood is now located at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, beside the Commonwealth Casino Commission. BEA CABRERA

HUD officials lead NMHC technical assistance training

Officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from its headquarters in Washington, D.C., as well as from its San Francisco, Denver, and Hawaii offices were on island Feb. 4-5, 2020, to conduct the first "Grantee Strategy Launch," a series of focused technical assistance training on the ground aimed at 2018 and 2019 new grantees under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Program.

According to HUD, "the goals of the strategy visits are to ensure compliance and efficient management of the disaster recovery funds, while, at the same time, maintaining compliance with state and local policies and procedures," through guidance on the proper submissions of pre-grant financial control certifications. procurement processes, and action plans.

The NMI CDBG-DR team led by Northern Marianas Housing Corp. corporate director Jesse Palacios and deputy corporate director Zenie Mafnas welcomed the first technical assistance strategy visit as the officials explained the myriad of administrative grant requirements through the various prior voluminous Federal Register notices. NMHC is equally pleased that the requisite Federal Register notice specific to the NMI DR grant allocation was finally issued and became effective on Feb. 3, 2020, which officially triggers the timeclock of deadlines that must be met in the next few weeks.

"We appreciate them per-

ROCK SAW MACHINE

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OVERHAULING

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ELECTRICAL WORKS

MECHANICAL WORKS

DUMP TRUCKS TRACTOR & LOWBOY



Officials of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Northern Marianas Housing Corp. pose for a group photo at the first "Grantee Strategy Launch" CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

sonally coming to visit us on the ground to provide our DR team with the technical assistance in order to successfully submit the CNMI's Action Plan, as well as guidance on effective and compliant program policies and procedures," Palacios said.

The first technical assistance strategy session also outlined what other basic efforts grantees must undertake and how the HUD TA providers assist in reviewing moving forward now that the timeline starts ticking. These include, but are not limited to, program management and design, requisite corresponding policies and procedures to the signature Action Plan, process mapping, and staffing considerations. The NMI DR team capped the strategy training by sharing the status of DR pre-award progress to date, including securing valuable data sharing agreements with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration to avoid duplication of benefits for potential program applicants, drafting primary housing policies and procedures, selecting a professional consultant to assist draft the Action Plan. NMHC has also started work on the paramount financial management and internal controls to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse of DR grant funding, finalizing

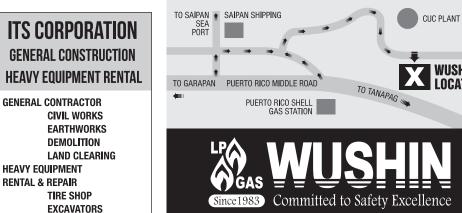
the scope and parameters of the requisite comprehensive and robust DR website to automate applications and work processes and augment citizen participation and program transparency, and hiring of initial professional and technical managerial team to ensure efficient and optimum operations, programmatic among others.

The Northern Marianas was granted the largest onetime grant in its history as a U.S. commonwealth with a \$243-plus million allocation to the CDBG-DR program. It is a flexible HUD-funded program provided as a special appropriation by the U.S. Congress to states, insular areas, counties, and municipalities to assist with long term recov-

Me accept SECTION 8

ery, disaster relief, restoration of housing and infrastructure and economic revitalization in the most distressed and impacted communities following a presidentially-declared disaster. It allows grantees to deploy funding to carry out a wide range of recovery activities and prioritizes low- and moderate- income persons and geographies. (PR)

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12 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



Published daily at 2/F JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR iavvee valleiera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR mark rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

The lowa caucus debacle shows the need to reform how we pick our presidential nominees

he debacle of Monday's Iowa Democratic caucuses spotlights the persistent problems that emerge every four years in that state, where voters are traditionally the first in the country to choose among the presidential candidates.

Yes, this time the incompetence on display was the Democrats' embarrassment, but Republicans have taken a turn in the cone of shame too. It wasn't that long ago that former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney seemed to have won the 2012 caucuses only to learn, 16 days later and after the New Hampshire primary, that former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum was the real winner.

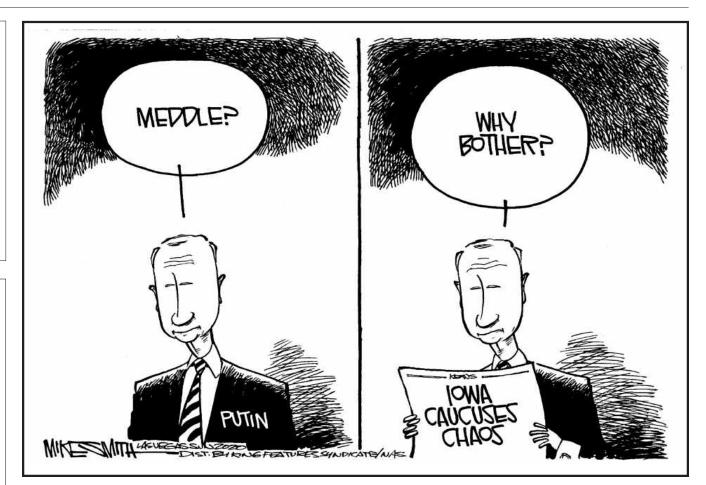
And there are bigger problems at play in Iowa than just delayed vote counts. In this era of foreign meddling and skepticism among American voters about how secure our elections really are, we badly need a process the American people can have faith in, and that is as fair and accessible as is possible. But the caucus system (which Nevada and Wyoming Democrats also use) is fundamentally undemocratic. Caucuses are prolonged party meetings, not traditional primaries. They're not conducted with secret ballots, thereby freezing out those who don't want their preference known. And by their very nature they limit participation by people who have trouble getting to or attending a meeting at a set time of day, including the elderly, people with mobility problems and young families with limited child-care options, among others. Caucus turnout is traditionally very low.

It's long been recognized that Iowa and New Hampshire, with overwhelmingly white populations, do not reflect the nation's broader racial, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity. Yet because they are the nation's first presidential nominating contests, they have played a disproportionate role in the selection of presidential candidates, giving some a boost if they do well and undercutting others. (Since 1988, half of the winners in contested Iowa caucuses have gone on to win their party's nomination.)

Some critics say Iowa's nominating process needs to be overhauled. Some have suggested a rotating primary schedule, with the early contests shifting among the states every four years. Others have argued for a regional approach, with multiple states reflecting varying demographics voting at the same time, a series of mini-Super Tuesdays. National Public Radio conducted an analysis four years ago that concluded that Illinois, home to the ethnically diverse Chicago metropolitan area but also a number of small cities and vast rural areas, was the state that most closely matched the national demographic mix. So maybe Illinois should go first.

Iowa's problems have multiple possible solutions. The major parties should be seeking them.

(c)2020 Los Angeles Times



Virus strategy

e need tourism dollars to prop up our country's economy right now. To get those tourists and the dollars they bring, we need to promote a unified brand front across all source country markets, except China. We need to focus on one message and push it with every dollar not already committed to other promotions. We need to pound the message into Japan, Korea, and Taiwan that Saipan is virus-free. We are a safe place to come. We have no flights to or from China, we have no Chinese tourists here. Come on down and enjoy the sun, sand, water and fun of Saipan without worry. Not many are traveling, we need to get our share and someone else's share too. The window for this kind of advertising is short.

As for China, we need to curtail all promotional expenditures until just before air transport is resumed and we can begin to receive Chinese guests again. That is probably months away. Save the money. Pack it away for a major advertising blitz just before flights are able to resume. After a few months we will have saved enough money to spread it around and have a credibly large cable TV presence and can get the word out that Saipan has remained virus-free and we can now offer you a safe haven for your treasured vacation in the sun. Come have fun on Saipan. Come and enjoy exotic Rota. See historic Tinian in safety.

There are certainly other possible strategies, but this one seems the best to me. Whatever strategy MVA chooses to use, it must be unified, it must stress a perfect record of safety, and it must be timed properly. We need to maximize those Japanese, Korean, and Taiwanese visitors now, and save our Chinese ammunition and use it later when it counts. Now is not a time to be passive. Now is the time to go full active and score as many visitors as possible from the countries that still have transportation to get here.

I am sure our professional MVA team will lead the offshore offices in a positive and unified promotional direction. If they don't, we're screwed. This economy will tank without the cash infusion brought in by the Japanese and Koreans.

CNMI economic impact

It always pays to diversify the source market countries. The more viable ones we have in play, the safer our economy is when something bad happens. When someone coughs on someone else and that someone else climbs aboard an airplane and begins to spread the next communicable disease, or a terror attack occurs or there is a regional airplane crash disaster, or political unrest, or, or, or, or...

That said, as a reminder of what we need to work on every day to be strong for the future, right now, while we are in the throes of one of the many possible "ors" that lead to an almost instantaneous economic downturn, we need to look at the likely economic consequences of the current crisis without any blinders on. Plain unvarnished reality.

While it doesn't take a rocket scientist to guess what might

SOUR GRAPESBy BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager

for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.

happen when the CNMI loses about half of its visitor income base virtually overnight with China knocked out of the picture, it needs to be looked at. The Chinese aren't coming at all and are unlikely to do so for several months at least. But that's not the end of it. Our Japanese and Korean travel partners and potential visitors are scared, like everyone else on the planet. So those arrival numbers will be down as well.

The few hundred or few thousand dollars each tourist spends while here in the CNMI multiplies itself as it spins through our economy. The meal that family bought at the restaurant and paid for with those funny looking (to them) green dollars produces an immediate impact. The wholesale food bill for the restaurant has to be paid, the payroll for the waiter, the light bill, the printer who made the menus, the accountant who counts the beans, the employees' salaries for each of those places etc., etc., etc.—all need to get paid. So the cash immediately starts spreading its way through the economy and a tax is harvested by the government at each step along the way. That is where 92% of the money our government has to work with comes from in a non-typhoon year. It comes from direct or indirect tourism-related businesses spreading money through the system. When you lose two-thirds of the tourism income virtually overnight, you better start cutting costs immediately. Did they?

All governments are renowned for collecting our money fast and paying their vendors and entitlees slowly. This government has reached near perfection in that unsavory skill set. You can expect CNMI government payments to come even later now and for the foreseeable future. You can expect all kinds of ridiculous new taxes to be proposed to generate a few more bucks. You can expect a significant reduction in services provided by the government or you can expect a rash of unconstitutional deficit spending to occur, which your children get to pay for. You can expect more austerity.

All this will pass as the months wear on and this particular virus is behind us. For now, this government is all but broke, so expect some rough times. Remember, the CNMI has no monetary

See VIRUS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish gipt, also transport as a thory modification. Submissions may be contributed and length accuracy.

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Priorities screwed!

hile Trump shares the "great American comeback" his nemeses in the U.S. Congress impeached him. Need juvenile politics blur the importance of hearing national issues that await joint resolution?

Didn't know national policymakers could trivialize vital matters, devolving into viciously immature politics only found on the islands. Whatever happened to maturity to govern with a sense of responsibility?

Politics: Trump presented the new trade-deal with Mexico and China—a \$200 billon deal—that would benefit farmers and manufacturers across the country. This should have placed shallow politics in the rear mirror. But it's hard for some to part with adolescency. Humiliating!

With a towering economy, establishment of nearly seven million better-paying new jobs, how do you justify impeachment?

It's hard derailing an issue especially when it benefits family dinner tables of more than seven million hardworking families. They have earned every penny while drenched in salty perspiration dripping from their foreheads and tired bodies.

Shutter

Reportedly, the world gambling capital of Macau braces for a 15-day shutdown of casinos and Hong Kong just reported its first death from the novel coronavirus this week. It's the result of the economic and human fallout from the latest global health panic.

We could only sit by the roadside in prayerful hope that the spread of the respiratory disease doesn't descend here. It would be hard for our people, economy, and healthcare system.

Goes to show we're highly vulnerable to setbacks like the virus that cuts visitors by the thousands. Once again, our economic fate is highlighted: what does the elected elite have up their sleeves while struggling to look intelligent and confused at the same time?

Dawn

We could feel the earthquake-like effect of the spread of the coronavirus worldwide, the thunder of fans at the 54th Super Bowl, and the global silence as people ponder what else may derail them up ahead.

The spread of the virus has unfairly stirred anti-China sentiment all over. It's wrong given that they too would like to get rid of the deadly disease, having been adversely affected by its global spread.

Statesiders who recently returned from China have been quarantined at military bases until their medical exams are complete and declared free of the disease. It's one more caution undertaken to contain the virus.

Medical reports say it isn't as bad as the flu (influenza) though many have died from it. But its colossal and instant spread worldwide is stunning. Moreover, the medical community has

VIRUS

From Page 12

printing press with which to relieve a downturn by increasing the rate of inflation. We are stuck with the cards we've been dealt. Looks like a low pair to me.

Next time let's look at what is going on with our (theoretically) potable water supply. Humans can go weeks without food but a few days without water puts our species out of commission. We need the stuff. Is our supply getting better or worse? Is the water quality getting better or worse? Why are all these wells being condemned and closed down? Please tune in next week.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

"Humanity shares a common ancestry with all living things on Earth. We often share especially close intimacies with the microbial world. In fact, only a small percentage of the cells in the human body are human at all. Yet, the common biology and biochemistry that unites us also makes us susceptible to contracting and transmitting infectious disease."

-Brenda Wilmoth Lerner, Infectious Diseases: In Context

"There are only two things a child will share willingly; communicable diseases and its mother's age."

—Benjamin Spock

yet to find medication for it. It's best you stay healthy!

Loss

It is predicted that the NMI would lose some \$40 million this fiscal year as a result of the cancellation of flights from China. Indeed, it's a sizeable revenue loss.

The flip side that equally merits ocular review is the cost to the NMI if half the population is afflicted with coronavirus. That would be devastating and I'm not sure we're prepared to deal with it.

It's the issue of complications that I find troubling in that it would tax the healthcare system beyond normalcy. I think we're better off maintaining the health of our people while muddling along with what we have in the treasury.

The impending loss is the reality of our mini-tourism industry reliant on visitors from nearby China and other markets. There's no other economy than what we have in mini-tourism.

A medical report says the coronavirus isn't as serious as flu (influenza) but not a reason to ignore what could well turn into a problematic health issues. It's good to avoid it so you don't have to deal with complications that may require a visit to the hospital.

Ouster

Impeachment is an issue picked by national Dems to trip the Donald in his presidential re-election.

A review of pertinent constitutional provision absolves the

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



Donald of any violation of law. He didn't commit any "high crime." Is this so hard to comprehend?

Hypocrisy

Dems are trapped in their kettle boiling hypocrisy hurling venomous hatred against Trump as if their opinions are set of facts. And they engage in perpetual negativity against the Donald in every conceivable way.

Seems an all-out political agenda to replace the voice of 136 million voters who voted for the Donald. Trump hasn't committed high crime that would force him out of the WH. The USC must dignify the voice of "we the people" lest the open ruination of our constitutional government.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Casino welfare in the Commonwealth

In case you did not hear, the CNMI is anticipating a \$40-million revenue shortfall due to the drop in Chinese tourists brought on by the threat of the 2019 novel coronavirus.

There are different scenarios being proposed, and one of them is cutting the 25% benefit payments to retirees. With a 25% reduction in the budget for fiscal year 2020, an across-the-board cut is expected, which is likely to result in cuts in government employees' work hours and salaries.

For our part in the Legislature, revenue generating bills suggested so far include raising taxes, increasing the number of poker parlors in our community, online gaming, and cutting your tax rebate.

While we expect everyone in the Commonwealth to "suffer together" as a community, I can't help but notice that it is those with the smallest salaries that will suffer the most. I am talking about our families who live paycheck to paycheck, barely getting by as it is right now. Now imagine a 20% cut in their salaries.

How many of us are going to have to take on part-time jobs? I already have, and so has my wife. It will become the normal trend in the CNMI. Working two jobs to make a living comes with some sacrifice and will result in less time spent with family, unfortunately. But what options do we have when we need to ensure our bills get paid and that we are able to keep food on the table and a roof over our heads?

What bothers me the most about all these scenarios is what is not even being considered, and that is collecting what IPI owes the Commonwealth government.

Let's not kid ourselves. Imperial Pacific International (IPI) has been given carte blanche—complete freedom—to do as they please, without repercussions. It is IPI that continues to call the shots. Here is a prime example:

After a lengthy dispute, IPI finally settled with the CNMI government on what they owe in business gross revenue taxes. Instead of paying the \$30 million they reportedly owe, they negotiated their way to a sweetheart deal and will only pay \$18 million—an astonishing 40% savings for IPI! IPI saves \$12 million, and the CNMI loses out on \$12 million.

In the meantime, what else do they owe the CNMI government? Well, for starters, how about the corporate income tax they still owe us? According to a 2018 Deloitte and Touche IPI Audit Report, they owe the CNMI government \$33 million, just in corporate income taxes. Why aren't we collecting from them?

They also owe the CNMI about \$37 million in their contractually obligated community benefit fund. Of course, there are a

few political hires who will tell you that it is IPI's money and that the CNMI can't tell them what to do with their money. What hogwash. IPI is obligated to spend \$20 million annually on education, infrastructure, healthcare, and retirement, all of which serve a public purpose and a benefit to the public. Why even have a community benefit fund when it clearly is not benefiting our community? We have asked for a report on this fund and have continuously been given the runaround. Why is it so difficult to get a report on this community benefit fund? Asking for our people.

What about the developer's infrastructure tax that IPI still has not paid? They owe the CNMI government an estimated \$16 million to \$18 million. Why do businesses have to pay their developer's infrastructure tax up front, but IPI does not? Asking for businesses

What is so bizarre is that if any other company or individual were to not pay the taxes and fees they owe the CNMI government, it would result in penalties and fines. What penalties and fines have been assessed to IPI thus far?

IPI came to the CNMI and promised a \$7 billion investment, with dreams of grandeur. How has that worked out for us so far? While the staunch supporters and beneficiaries of IPI continue to rally and champion their commitment to the community, the reality is IPI only paid a measly \$41,000 in BGRT for the entire year of 2019.

To the retirees, you know what is really sad? The fact that your 25% cut is being considered. Why? Because the \$15 million annual license fee IPI pays was originally being used to pay the 25% benefit payments that weren't required in the Settlement Agreement, so that you would receive 100% of your pension. Unfortunately, H.B. 20-99, which became CNMI P.L. 20-10, changed all that and took the \$15 million away from you retirees and gave it to the three senatorial districts to spend as they please. I voted no to this bill for all the obvious reasons. Had this disastrous P.L. 20-10 never passed, retirees would be protected right now and would not be affected.

A dear friend of mine who is an accountant told me, "Numbers don't lie. People do." He is so right. And here are the numbers:

- FY 2017 \$8 million deficit
- FY 2018 \$26 million deficit
- FY 2019 \$88 million deficit

Tonight, when you meet with your family members to discuss the hardships you will be facing this year, ask your family members this question: "Why isn't IPI paying the CNMI government the tens of millions it owes?" And then ask the same question to all of your elected and appointed officials.

May God bless you and your family and our beloved Commonwealth.

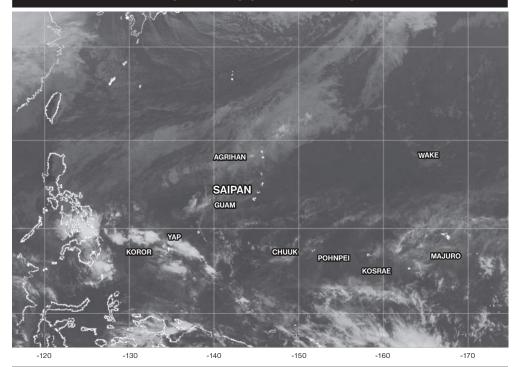
Rep. Ed Propst

21st Legislature

14 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TOI	DAY	SATU	RDAY	SUN	IDAY	MON	IDAY	TUES	SDAY
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Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy showers. Eas 20 m	t winds 10 to		with isolated vers.	Mostly cloudy shov	with isolated wers.	Mostly cloudy show	
88°	77º	88°	77º	88°	77°	88°	77°	87°	77º
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:11 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020 Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, isolated light showers, and moderate trade winds are present this morning across the Marianas. The buoys are indicating seas of 6 to 7 feet, dominated by east swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	A	▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	83° / 75°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°
AROUND TH	E GLOBE	≜ ♥°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	45° / 19°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 59°
Honolulu	Showers	74° / 66°
London	Mostly Sunny	50° / 45°
Los Angeles	Sunny	70° / 51°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Windy	82° / 64°
Miami	Windy	81° / 73°
New York	Rain	47° / 28°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	52° / 43°
Busan	Sunny	48° / 32°
Rome	Sunny	57° / 34°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	51° / 35°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 45°
Seoul	Sunny	43° / 19°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	54° / 34°
Washington, DC	Rain	53° / 32°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

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12:04 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.43
7:26 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.67
12:28 PM	LOW TIDE	1.10
5:24 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Sunday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	6:18 PM
Tuesday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:36 AM	4:11 PM
Saturday	-	5:34 AM	5:14 PM
Sunday	-	6:31 AM	6:18 PM
Monday	-	7:24 AM	7:21 PM
Tuesday	-	8:15 AM	8:22 PM

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		PARTU	RES			RRIVAL	.S
SAIPAN-	GUAM (GUM)		GUAM (G	ium)-sa	IPAN	
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-	NARITA	(NRT)		NARITA ((NRT)-S	AIPAN	
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6			·	·
SAIPAN-	·BUSAN ((PUS)		BUSAN (I	PUS)-SA	IPAN	
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
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SAIPAN-	SEOUL (ICN)		SEOUL (I	CN)-SAI	PAN	
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623		1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-	MANILA	(MNL)		MANILA	(MNL)-S	AIPAN	
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	•
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625			1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	•	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm		2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GU
	•			OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ626/721 1 via ICN OZ746/6233 12:35am 12:50pm 2, 4, 6 via ICN 2:10am 11:50am OZ626/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN OZ746/623 12:35am 1:40pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN OZ626/721 4 via ICN OZ722/625 3:35am 11:50am 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ6243/9661 OZ722/625 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN 3:10pm 11:15pm 2, 4, 6 via ICN 1:15pm 1:40am+1 OZ624/9661 3:30pm 11:15pm OZ722/625 1:15pm 2:25am+1 3 via ICN 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

OZ704/623

OZ704/6233 11:45pm 12:50pm+1 2, 4, 6 via ICN

11:45pm 1:40pm+1 1, 3 via ICN

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN 1 FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1203 1204 1205 1206 1207 1208 1209	9:00AM 10:00AM 11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM 3:00PM	9:15AM 10:15AM 11:15AM 12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM 3:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily
ROTA TO FLIGHT # 3101 3102 3103	DEPARTURE 8:15AM 1:45PM 4:45PM	ARRIVAL 8:45AM 2:15PM 5:15PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1210 1211 1212	4:00PM 5:00PM 6:00PM	4:15PM 5:15PM 6:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily
ROTA TO	GUAM			FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM	ARRIVAL 12:45PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2102 2103 2104	7:30AM 8:30AM 9:30AM	7:45AM 8:45AM 9:45AM	Daily Daily Daily
GUAM TO	ROTA			2105	10:30AM 11:30AM	10:45AM 11:45AM	Daily Daily
FLIGHT # 4301	DEPARTURE 1:00PM	ARRIVAL 1:30PM	FREQUENCY 2107 Daily 2108 2109	2108	12:30PM 1:30PM 2:30PM	12:45PM 1:45PM 2:45PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily
SAIPAN 1	TO TINIAN			2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT # 1201 1202	DEPARTURE 7:00AM 8:00AM	ARRIVAL 7:15AM 8:15AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily	2111 2112 2113	4:30PM 5:30PM 6:30PM	4:45PM 5:45PM 6:45PM	Daily Daily Daily

DOI water treatment engineers to aid Palau public utilities

WASHINGTON, team of water treatment engineers from the Department of the

Interior's Bureau of Reclamation will be in Palau for two weeks beginning Feb. 7, 2020, to assist the Palau Public Utilities Corp.

Supported by funding from the Office of Insular Affairs, their work will include assessing the existing conditions at throughout Palau.

"Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, when representing President Trump at the Pacific Islands Forum in Tuvalu, announced this water project," said U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Doug Domenech. "This

16 water treatment facilities is another example of the administration's commitment to the people of Palau and the importance of the relationship between the United States and Palau under the Compact of Free Association."

> "The Bureau of Reclamation has a long history of sharing its water expertise throughout the

world." said Reclamation commissioner Brenda Burman. "I am excited for our engineers to work with the people of Palau to help them assess their water treatment challenges.'

Funding for this project was provided through the Office of Insular Affairs and first announced in October 2019. Similar water and utility projects will also be supported in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands with expertise and support from Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. More information on these projects may be found on the OIA website at: https://

www.doi.gov/oia/press/interiorand-epa-leverage-funding-andexpertise-support-clean-waterand-utility-efficiency.

Bernhardt announced this project at the Pacific Islands Forum Partners Dialogue in Tuvalu last August as part of the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy in the Pacific. (PR)

BOG accepting donations for Taal victims

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam has established an account to receive donations for the victims of the Taal Volcano eruption in the Philippines.

Working with the Batangas Southern Tagalog Association of Guam, or BASTA, funds raised will be sent directly to the Batangas Family Association in the Philippines for immediate assistance.

"As extended members of our local community, our hearts go out to our neighbors in the Philippines left devastated by the Taal volcanic eruptions. There are so many here [in] Guam and within the surrounding region that have felt the impact of these events, having family and friends living near the affected area," said Joaquin P.L.G. Cook, Bank of Guam president and chief executive officer. "We join the efforts of so many other local organizations who...are doing their part to support relief efforts. Every penny counts. If you want to help, Bank of Guam's network of branches are standing by to receive donations and pass them on to those in need." (PR)

USCIS response to the 2019 coronavirus

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is monitoring the effects of the public health emergency related to the 2019 coronavirus outbreak on agency operations.

Office closures in China

According to U.S. Department of State guidance, USCIS is temporarily closing its field offices in Beijing and Guangzhou. We will reschedule all affected appointments and will send new appointment notices to applicants.

jing and Guangzhou webpages for updates on the status of these offices.

Rescheduling appointments in the **US** due to illness

If you are in the United States and are sick or start to feel symptoms of being sick, please follow the instructions on your appointment notice to reschedule your appointment. There is no penalty if you reschedule your appointment.

General symptoms of illness can include:

Fever

unwell

Cough

Shortness of breath Runny nose

Headache Sore threat

A general feeling of being

For the safety of our employees and those we serve, if you or someone with you appears ill during your appointment, the officer may reschedule your appointment.

Special situations

When requested, USCIS may provide special support for individuals who may be affected by natural or extreme circumstances. When applying for an extension or change of status due to a special situation that prevented your planned and timely departure, we may take into consideration how the special situation prevented your departure. Check our Special Situations webpage for more information. (USCIS)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy sweet 16th birthday to our amazing daughter, Maddie! May the year ahead be filled with every good thing life has to offer. May God blee you always. We love you! Greeting come from your loving family.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.5-magnitude quake in Agrihan

At 9:23am yesterday, Feb. 6 2020, a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 24 kilometers south of Agrihan in the Northern Marianas Islands. Currently, The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not issue any tsu-

nami warnings or advisories. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

Saturday writing workshops

The Marianas Writers Movement is continuing with its Saturday workshops. Each workshop is two hours, beginning at 1:30pm in the VTC Room of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. On Saturday, Feb. 8, we will be sharing the results of our beta reading and some tips on line editing. On Feb. 15, we will focus on pitching your

novel. On Feb. 22, we will have a special guest, Victoria-Lola M. Leon Guerrero from UOG Press, who is looking for Pacific writers to publish. The workshops, "Beyond the First Draft," will focus on the editing process and are open to all over age 13, and are free. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962 -mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO. IFB-004-20

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRRUARY 09, 2018 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT POLICE PATROL BOAT WITH TRAILER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of one (1) unit Police Patrol Boat with Trailer, destination Saipan. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning January 10, 2020, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$150.00 in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building on January 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., to discuss and ask questions regarding this procurement process. All interested bidders are asked to attend.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted through the CPA Executive Director via email at <u>cpa.receptionist@pticom.com</u> with copy to <u>itdelacruz@cpa.gov.mp</u> prior to February 3rd,, 2020.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Procurement and Delivery of one (1) unit Police Patrol Boat with Trailer/IFB-004-20". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, February 7, 2020, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. and publicly announced. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date:



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315



PUBLIC NOTIC

www.dcrm.gov.mp

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: February 7, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the United States Department of the Navy regarding the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)**

More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the following website: https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019 DEC 13 U N465 1492 CNMI-DCR M-trn-ltr-16-DEC-19-TO-MS.-REYES.pdf and

https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/2019 DEC 10 U N465 1467 ENCL-TO C NMI-DCRM-trn-ltr-10-DEC-19.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan. Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for thirty (30) days, comment period began on January 7, 2020 and will end on February 7, 2020. This comment period has been extended to give the public a sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

16 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE



BE COUNTED

Call: (670) 682-2020



Email: cnmi@2020census.gov

Census

Census

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

2020 Census of CNMI FAQ

What is the Census?

population and housing count of Island Areas cluding a federal prison sentence of up to five between March and June 2020. such as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The 2020 Census of CNMI will also collect socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of the population and housing of CNMI.

What is the purpose of the Census?

The purpose of the Census is to collect information about the population and housing conditions of people living in CNMI, the 50 states, and the other U.S. territories.

Do I have to respond?

Yes, responding to the Census is required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code, Sections 141 and 193). Your answers are kept completely confidential.

Why is it important to answer the Gensus Questions?

By answering the Census questions, you will not only be helping your family, but other families in the CNMI.

How will the Census help my family?

Your participation will determine how federal funds will be distributed to the CNMI. The Census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on Census data.

Is my response confidential?

Yes. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you or your household. Your information will not be shared with any person, business, government or law enforcement agency, or court.

The answers you provide are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous.

How is my information protected?

Being responsible stewards of your data is not only required by law, it is embedded in Census Bureau culture. Strict policies and statistical safeguards help protect the confidentiality of your information. First, every Census employee takes an oath and is required by law to protect

The decennial Census is the once-a-decade violates this law can face severe penalties, inyears, a fine of up to \$250,000 or both.

> The security of Census Bureau systems is also a top priority, and the Census Bureau's IT infrastructure is designed to defend against and contain cyberthreats. The Census Bureau follows industry best practices and federal reguirements to protect your data. We continually refine our approach to identifying, preventing, detecting, and responding to these threats.

> Finally, statistical safeguards ensure than any statistical data products the Census Bureau releases meet confidentiality standards and canor anyone else in your home.

What are the Census questions?

Most of the questions will be similar to what Census forms have asked for in recent counts:

- a home on April 1, 2020
- out a mortgage, rented or occupied with- on stateside questionnaires?
- race of each person in the home
- Latino or Spanish origin
- tral person in the home
- Education, income, and employment information of each person in the home
- Ancestry of each person
- Languages spoken by each person
- The type of health insurance coverage (if any) for each person
- Whether any person has any disabilities
- The marital status of each person
- More

How do I respond to the 2020 Census?

If you live in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a Census worker will visit you to complete the 2020 Census in person between March and June 2020. You will not complete the 2020 Census online, by mail, or over the phone.

When is the 2020 Census of CNMI

your personal information for life. Anyone who conduct the 2020 Census in-person interviews at all homes and other places where people live

How long will it take to complete the 2020 Census of CNMI Questionnaire?

On average, the 2020 Census of CNMI guestionnaire will take about 45 minutes to com-

How will I know someone is an official 2020 Census of CNMI worker?

All Census workers carry official government badges and a badge identifying them as a 2020 Census worker. You can also call the CNMI Census office for verification at 682-2020.

not be used in any way that could identify you Census workers will never ask you for banking information, social security numbers, passwords, or to send money or pay a fee in connection with your 2020 Census response.

Why are there more questions on the 2020 Census questionnaire in the • The number of people living or staying in **Commonwealth of Northern Mariana** Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and • Whether the home is owned with or with- the U.S. Virgin Islands than there are

Census data are collected only once each • A phone number for a person in the home decade in the Commonwealth of Northern Mar-• The name, sex, age, date of birth and iana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Ongoing surveys are not Whether each person is of Hispanic, fielded between Censuses, as they are stateside. The Census Bureau uses a different • The relationship of each person to a cenquestionnaire in the Island areas, with more guestions, to meet the Island Areas' data needs for detailed social, housing, and economic information for the entire decade.

Why am I seeing advertisements to complete the 2020 Gensus online and in 10 minutes?

The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands may occasionally receive 2020 Census stateside advertising on national television, radio and social media. However, the 2020 Island Areas Censuses use a different questionnaire with more questions than stateside, and Census workers conduct in-person interviews.

We will not be asking about your citizenship status. We will not ask for your Social Security number, donations, or money. If anyone claiming to be a Census employee Census workers will walk neighborhoods to asks you any of these, please contact the CNMI Census Office immediately at 682-

verify and list all homes and other places people might live during February 2020. They will SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 **17**

18 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

What for W-4? Why you should care about the new tax form

AP PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

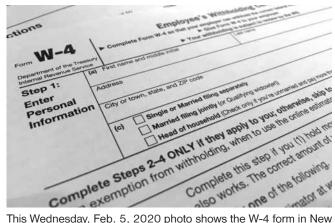
If you are starting a new job this year, or just want to update your tax information with your employer, some of the paperwork is going to look different. A lot different.

The IRS has introduced a new Form W-4 that must be used by all employers in 2020 to better accommodate recent changes to the tax law.

The overhaul of the form is the biggest in decades and makes a once quick exercise a bit more involved. In return, according to the IRS, it will yield more accurate results. That is particularly important as the new tax law led to surprises for some folks last year, due in part to improper withholdings.

So the new form is worth a look, regardless of how long you have been on the job. The more accurate your W-4, the more accurate your withholdings are.

Withhold too little and you'll owe money at tax time and possibly face a penalty. Withhold too much and you may be due a refund — which means you missed out on that money all year. Ideally you



This Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 photo shows the W-4 form in New

as well as dependents, to cal-

culate how much to withhold.

The form is five steps long.

Steps 1 and 5 are manda-

tory — fill out your personal

information and sign the form.

For some people, that will be

it. The other steps are optional

but can help a taxpayer get

more accurate results, says Al-

ice Jacobsohn, senior manager

of government relations for the

American Payroll Association

provide information about

all the income in their house-

hold if there are multiple

jobs. This applies if the em-

ployee has more than one job

Step 2 asks employees to

THE DETAILS

should break even.

Here's what you should know:

WHAT'S DIFFERENT

Say goodbye to allowances, the backbone of the old W-4.

Employees used to answer a series of questions to arrive at a number of "allowances." The allowances were based on personal exemptions — essentially how much income was exempt from tax based on how many people were dependent on the employee. But the new tax law did away with personal exemptions, so the IRS had to change its approach.

The form now collects information about all the income in an employee's household,

or if both spouses work and file taxes jointly.

Employees can use an online calculator or worksheet to arrive at the correct amount, or they can simply check a box if the pay at both jobs is roughly equal. Payroll company ADP warns of a potential misstep here: if you have two jobs or are in a two-earner household and check this box — do so on the W-4s for both jobs. But only complete steps 3 and 4 on one W-4 to ensure the proper amount is withheld.

If an employee does not want to disclose that they have a second job or share their spouse's income information, there are workarounds. The easiest is to use the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator at www.irs.gov/W4app to determine how much your household needs to withhold and enter that total lower on the form.

Step 3 is for claiming any dependents, which are generally consider those who are under age 17 and living with you more than half the year. You'll need to complete an additional worksheet if you have other types of dependents to claim.

And Step 4 is where you

can make any adjustments for other income, deductions or optional withholdings. This includes reporting other forms of income such as dividends or withdrawals from retirement accounts. There is also an option to enter a set amount of additional money to be withheld, including those who simply want to ensure they have a large refund.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Survey: US companies added 291,000 jobs in January

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. companies added 291,000 jobs in January, a big increase from December, but much of that strength likely reflected unusually warm weather during the month. Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that the January job gain, which was larger than had been expected, compared to a revised December figure of 193,000. Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said that warmer-than-normal weather for January played a big role in the increase. He said without that impact, the job gain would probably have been around 150,000.

Madoff seeks prison release, citing terminal kidney failure

NEW YORK (AP)—Epic

schemer Madoff asked a federal judge Wednesday to grant him a "compassionate release" from his 150-year prison sentence, saying he has terminal kidney failure and less than 18 months to live. Madoff's attorney filed court papers saying the 81-year-old has end-stage kidney disease and other "chronic, serious medical conditions," including hypertension and cardiovascular disease. "There's no cure for my type of disease," Madoff told The Washington Post in a phone interview, expressing remorse for orchestrating the largest Ponzi scheme in history. After spending more than a decade behind bars, Madoff said his dving wish is to salvage his relationships with his grandchildren. "I've served 11 years already," he said, "and, quite frankly, I've suffered through it."

3,334.69 +37.10 +1.13%

DOW 29,290.85 +483.22 +1.68%

NASDAQ 9,508.68 +40.71 +0.43%

	EXCHANGE	RATES
s	Australian Dollar	1.48
term	British Pound	0.77
ollar	Canadian Dollar	1.33
In U.S. dollar terms	Chinese Yuan	6.84
I	Euro	0.91

Hong Kong Dollar	7.76
Indian Rupee	70.52
Japanese Yen	109.97
Malaysian Ringgit	4.07
New Zealand Dollar	1.54
Philippine Peso	49.73

62.58
1.38
1,157.29
0.97
29.49
31.09



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY **CNMI GOVERNMENT**



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP20-DCCA/CCDF-048

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 02, 2020 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"TO DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC PLAN TO **FACILITATE COLLABORATION & COORDINATION** AMONG THE CNMI'S ECE PROGRAM IN A MIXED DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF **COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE** & DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS,

A <u>Mandatory pre-proposal</u> will be held at the office of child care & DEVELOPMENT FUND BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION COURT IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 20, 2020.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO MS. MARIBEL LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA EMAIL AT mloste.cnmiccdf@gmail.com OR VIA FAX TO (670) 664-2547 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FEBRUARY 21, 2020. ALL QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS. OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT,

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON **ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S**





REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP20-DCCA/CCDF-049

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 02, 2020 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"TO DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT A PLAN FOR SHARING **BEST PRACTICES AMONG THE CNMI'S EARLY** CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION PROVIDERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL,

A **MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL** WILL BE HELD AT THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION COURT IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 21, 2020.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO MS. MARIBEL LOSTE. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA EMAIL AT mloste.cnmiccdf@gmail.com OR VIA FAX TO (670) 664-2547 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FEBRUARY 24, 2020. ALL QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S





SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 02, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M. "TO MAXIMIZE PARENTAL CHOICE & KNOWLEDGE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP NO.: RFP20-DCCA-CCDF-050

ABOUT THE CNMI'S MIXED DELIVERY SYSTEM OF **EXISTING PROGRAMS & PROVIDERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL** AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL,

A **MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL** WILL BE HELD AT THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION COURT IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 24 2020.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO MS. MARIBEL LOSTE. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA EMAIL AT mloste.cnmiccdf@gmail.com OR VIA FAX TO (670) 664-2547 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FEBRUARY 25, 2020. ALL QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/<u>s/ robert H. Hunter</u>

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 19 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

Sen. Mitt Romney breaks with GOP, votes to convict Trump

By ALAN FRAM

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican Mitt Romney, establishment to the core, took the Senate's most bra- Romney

rebellious stance Wednesday in voting to force President Donald Trump from office, a move highlighting how rare it is for Republicans to cross

swords with this president.

By voting to convict Trump for abusing presidential powers, the Utah lawmaker became the only Republican to cross party lines in the Senate impeachment trial's climactic votes acquitting the president. All Democrats voted to convict Trump on both counts against him.

In a remarkable spectacle, Romney's decision meant the GOP's unsuccessful 2012 presidential nominee had voted to oust a Republican president who seldom



hides his contempt for the well-mannered party elders that the patrician Romney symbol-

Trump As plunges into his reelection effort, Romney's move denied Trump a

campaign talking point of asserting he had been unanimously acquitted by Republicans in a strictly partisan drive to remove him. In fact, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., used Romney's vote to tout the Senate's "bipartisan vote to convict him."

It also stood as the most noteworthy vote of defiance against Trump by a congressional Republican since 2017. At that time, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., aimed his thumb downward in a post-midnight roll call that derailed Trump's signature effort to dismantle President Barack Obama's health care law.

Trump wins acquittal, but Ukraine saga far from over

By MARY CLARE JALONICK

WASHINGTON (AP)—The

impeachment of President Donald Trump is over, but it's far from case closed on Ukraine. A full accounting of Trump's

dealings with Ukraine, stemming in large part from the foreign policy entanglements pursued by personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, remains unfinished despite Trump's acquittal Wednesday in the Senate.

As the president launches into his reelection campaign, pushing past the charges that threatened his legacy, it's only a matter of time before fresh details, documents and eyewitnesses emerge, including revelations in a new book from John Bolton, the former national security adviser.

The result could be the start of a prolonged investigation with no clear endpoint, keeping questions about the president's conduct alive through the election in November. It's the kind of prolonged fallout that Trump and his GOP allies sought to avoid as they rejected a lengthy impeachment trial.

"More is going to come



House Democratic impeachment manager, Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., leaves the Senate chamber after today's acquittal of President Donald Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.

out every day, indeed it has come out every day and every week," said House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press.

Schiff, the House's lead impeachment manager, said that no final decisions have been made on whether to subpoena Bolton in the House after the Senate voted not to hear his testimony.

president's "The

lack of character, his willingness to cheat in the election—he's not going to stop," Schiff said. "It's not going to change, which means that we are going to have to remain eternally vigilant."

Bolton, who was in the room as Trump made key decisions, will be telling his story soon, possibly in testimony, if House leaders decide to subpoena him, or in a book that is scheduled for release in March.

And it's not just Bolton.

Giuliani associate Lev Parnas, a Florida businessman who claims to have been working for Trump on Ukraine, has said he is eager to testify before Congress and tell his side of the story. Indicted on campaign finance charges last year, he has been providing documents and messages to impeachment investigators.

Meanwhile, thousands of pages of Ukraine-related documents are slowly emerging in response to Freedom of Information Act lawsuits filed by watchdog groups. The Justice Department disclosed in a court filing last weekend that it has 24 emails related to Ukraine that it has not produced.

Rep. Eliot Engel, the House Foreign Affairs chairman, said the Ukraine story "is definitely not over." His committee was one of several that worked on the impeachment inquiry.

"I can tell you we're not going to let the issue drop," Engel said. "I think there are a lot of unanswered questions that the American public deserves



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS ITB20-GOV-031

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF Honey Wagon Truck for the Rota Mayor's Office

Governor Ralph D.L.G. Torres, and Lt. Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Honey Wagon Truck for the Rota Mayor's Office in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on February 10, 2020 at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 10:00 am ChST at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente in writing by e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com, on or before the close of business on February 26, 2020. to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to

Sealed bids must be marked ITB20-GOV-031 – "Supply and Delivery of a Honey Wagon Sewer Truck for the Rota Mayor's Office". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST March, 09, 2020. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST March 09, 2020 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to amagofma@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 09, 2020 and mailed to the Director of Procurement and Supply at PO. Box 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950 and the bid documents must be precised for referring of a bid nts must be received no later than March 18, 2020. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 10:00 a.m. ChST March 20, 2020. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:00 a.m. ChST March 09, 2020.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

US Government Securities

Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern

Ralph DLG. Torres

Francisco Aguon, Acting Director CNMI Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-010

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set,

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-010, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 6, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. An electronic copy of the entire subm is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. The Bid bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2020 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christies Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email christies. sablan@cucgov.org, Joseph Crisostomo@cucgov.org and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN Purchasing Administrator **20** FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Asia

10 more sick with virus on one of two isolated cruise ships

BEIJING (AP)—Ten more people were sickened with a new virus aboard one of two quarantined cruise ships with some 5,400 passengers and crew aboard, health officials in Japan said Thursday, as China reported 73 more deaths and the World Health Organization appealed for more funds to help countries battle the spread of the disease.

The ships in Japan and Hong Kong are caught up in a global health emergency that seems to worsen by the day.

In the port city of Yokohama, just outside Tokyo, health workers said 10 more people from the Diamond Princess were confirmed ill with the virus, in addition to 10 others who tested positive on Wednesday. The latest infections included four Japanese, two Americans, two Canadians, one New Zealander and one Taiwanese. Most were in their 60s and 70s.

They were dropped off as the ship docked and transferred to nearby hospitals for further test and treatment.

The 3,700 people on board faced a two-week quarantine in their cabins. The ship had 2,666 passengers and 1,045 crew members. More tests are pending on 171 others who had symptoms or had contact with a man who was diagnosed with the virus after leaving the ship in Hong Kong, the Health Ministry said.

The 3,600 people aboard the Hong Kong ship were also being screened after three passengers on a previous voyage were diagnosed with the virus. The territory's beleaguered leader, Carrie Lam, announced that two terminals—including one where the cruise ship is currently quarantined—will be shut down.

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)— The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has announced it will transfer or release all of its missionaries out of two Chinese cities amid concerns over a new virus that originated in the country.

There are 125 missionaries combined in Hong Kong and Macau, The Deseret News reported Tuesday.

The church's Missionary Department would temporarily reassign 113 missionaries from the China Hong Kong Mission to other missions, sending home those who were close to completing their service, officials said.

An additional 12 missionaries, who are Hong Kong natives, will be released from service until the danger from the virus passes, church officials said.

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—A Wisconsin resident who returned from a trip to China last week has been sickened with a new virus that originated there, becoming the first confirmed case in the state and the 12th in the U.S., health officials said Wednesday.

The adult patient went straight from the Madison airport to the University of Wisconsin Hospital emergency room to be tested for the virus and they have remained in isolation at home ever since, Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway said.

"They are doing well," Rhodes-Conway said. "They are still in isolation at home and will remain there until testing shows they no longer have the coronavirus."

State and local officials declined to release more details about the person, including their age and sex. The person lives in Dane County, where the capital city of Madison and the flagship University of Wisconsin campus is located, but officials would not say where exactly.

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—American evacuees from the growing coronavirus outbreak in China will be flying into Omaha as soon as Thursday and be quarantined at a nearby Nebraska National Guard training base, officials said Wednesday.

The plane will be landing at Eppley Airfield and park at a remote spot. The passengers will not go inside the terminal, said a news release from Nebraska Medicine, and they'll be taken to Camp Ashland, which sits about 30 miles (48 kilometers) southwest of the airport. Nebraska Medicine spokesman Taylor Wilson said he couldn't yet say how many evacuees were headed to Omaha or when the flight was expected to land.

Nebraska National Guard officials have been preparing to house evacuees in three buildings with 85 hotel-style rooms at the camp. Guard officials have said the evacuees

Cruise ships quarantined

More than 5,300 people are being quarantined on two cruise ships off Hong Kong and Japan amid growing worry about the spread of the coronavirus.



won't interact with guardsmen or employees there.

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BEIJING (AP)—Scientists in the city at the center of China's virus outbreak have applied to patent a drug made by U.S. company Gilead Science Inc. to treat the disease, possibly fueling conflict over technology policy that helped trigger Washington's tariff war with Beijing.

The government-run Wuhan Institute of Virology said this week it applied for the patent in January along with a military laboratory. An institute statement acknowledged there are "intellectual property barriers" but said it acted to "protect national interests."

Granting its own scientists a patent might give the Chinese government leverage in negotiations over paying for the drug. But it also might fuel complaints Beijing abuses its regulatory system to pressure foreign companies to hand over valuable technology.

On Thursday, the official Xinhua News Agency said clinical trials of the drug, remdesivir, were due to start.

The director-general of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, on Wednesday asked for \$675 million to help countries address the expected spread of the virus. He acknowledged that the sum is a lot, but told a news briefing that "it's much less than the bill we will face if we do not invest in preparedness now."

Tedros said that in the last 24 hours, the U.N. health agency has seen the biggest jump in cases since the start of the epidemic. According to the latest figures early Thursday, the number of confirmed cases jumped by 3,694 to 28,018,

and the death toll rose to 563.

Outside mainland China, at least 240 cases have been confirmed, including two fatalities, one in Hong Kong and another in the Philippines.

China has strongly defended its epidemic control measures and called on other nations not to go overboard in their responses. Countries "can assess the epidemic situation in an objective, fair, calm and rational manner, respect authoritative and professional WHO recommendations, understand and support China's epidemic control efforts," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chenying said at an online news conference. "Fear is worse than any virus.'

As thousands of hospital workers in Hong Kong went on strike to demand the border with mainland China be closed completely, the city announced that all people entering from the mainland, including Hong Kong residents, must be quarantined for 14 days. Tokyo Olympics organizers, meanwhile, said they are increasingly worried about the disruption the virus is causing ahead of the games, which open in less than six months.

To reduce the danger of exposure for health workers, Beijing is seeking to develop a robot to administer throat tests. Separately, Shanghai announced that all schools will delay reopening until at least the end of February, rather than the middle of the month as originally planned. The exact date will depend on how the outbreak develops.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Governors of the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture, hereby give notice that a regular meeting of the Museum will be held on **Monday, February 10, 2020 at 10:00am** at the **NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan, Saipan**. All interested persons are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 664-2160 or send fax to 664-2170.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Election of Officers
- V. Executive Director Update
- VI. Miscellaneous
- VII. Adjournment

Danny Aquino Executive Director



SUBMISSION DATE: December 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Engineering and Design Related Services for Route 317 (Gualo Rai Road) Improvements, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A Mandatory PRE-PROPOSAL Conference WILL BE HELD ON <u>February 25</u>, <u>2020 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME</u> AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Office, Saipan.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS March 10, 2020. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ JAMES A. ADA SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS /S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON



ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-009
SUBMISSION DATE: February 28, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Route 315 (Quartermaster Road) and Route 33 (Beach Road) Intersection Improvements and Installation of Traffic Signal System"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 12, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 19, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA

/S/FRANCISCO C. AGUON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 **21** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

World

Airliner skids, breaks open in Istanbul; 3 dead, 179 injured

ISTANBUL (AP)—A Turkish airliner skidded off a runway, crashed into a ditch and broke apart while landing in bad weather in Istanbul Wednesday, killing three people and injuring dozens more. Passengers had to scramble through the split fuselage to escape.

The aircraft, operated by low-cost carrier Pegasus Airlines, was arriving at Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen airport from the western Turkish city of Izmir with 183 passengers and crew on board when it had what the Transportation Ministry described as a "rough landing."

Istanbul Gov. Ali Yerlikaya said the plane failed to "hold onto the runway" and skidded some 50-60 meters (yards) before it dropped into the ditch from a height of about 30 meters (98 feet.)

"We are deeply saddened ... (But) we are very happy

sions have emerged among

that we escaped a greater accident," Yerlikaya said, adding that the plane could have burst into flames.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca reported early Thursday that three people had died and 179 required care at multiple hospitals.

Emergency workers, assisted by an excavator, recovered one body from beneath the wreckage before the rescue mission ended.

The airport was shut down after the incident, which occurred at around 6:30 p.m. local time (1530 GMT), and flights were diverted to Istanbul's main airport.

Survivor Dogus Bilgic, 24,

controls-oriented environment as:



Rescue members and firefighters work around the wreckage of a plane after it skidded off the runway at Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen Airport, in Istanbul, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.

told Turkish television channel NTV that he fled the smashed passengers to get out.

"We traveled (on the run-

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., (Mobil) is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation - one of the

world's largest publicly traded international oil and gas company, which holds an

industry-leading inventory of resources and is one of the world's largest integrated refiners,

marketers of petroleum products and chemical manufacturers. This is your opportunity to join

this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced,

way) for some 20 or 30 seconds, then all of a sudden we because of a leg injury. "It happened in seconds."

flew off the runway," he said plane by way of a gap near his seat and was one of the first while seated in a wheelchair

WORLD BRIEFS

Avalanche in Turkey wipes out rescue team; 38 dead overall

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)— An avalanche slammed into a mountain road in eastern Turkey on Wednesday, wiping out a huge team of rescue workers sent to find people missing in an earlier avalanche. Officials said 33 emergency workers were killed, 53 were injured and others are still buried under the snow. Wednesday's avalanche increased the overall death toll from the disaster to 38. Some 300 emergency service workers were called to a highway near the mountain-surrounded town of Bahcesaray in Van province, which borders Iran, after an avalanche struck late Tuesday. That snow slide killed five people and left two missing. Around noon Wednesday,

the team was struck by the second avalanche. Turkey's emergency and disaster management agency, AFAD, said 33 bodies were recovered from the mass of snow on the steep slope. Earlier, Gov. Mehmet Emin Bilmez said the dead included eight military police officers, three government-paid village guards, three firefighters and nine volunteers

Iraqi officials: At least 8 shot dead in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—At least eight anti-government protesters were shot dead and 52 were wounded in clashes with followers of a radical Shiite cleric in southern Iraq on Wednesday, Iraqi medical officials and activists said. The violence comes as new divi-

protesters and supporters of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who initially threw his weight behind the uprising. But he then re-positioned himself toward the political establishment after political elites selected Mohammed Allawi as prime minister-designate, a candidate he endorsed. Since then al-Sadr has issued a dizzying array of calls to followers, asking them to return to the streets days after withdrawing support from protests. The often contradictory orders have exacerbated existing tensions between antigovernment demonstrators and his followers, with some activists claiming al-Sadr's followers had threatened them to toe the cleric's line or leave protest sites.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 20-01 United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

Information Technology Security Officer
Permanent, Full-Time Position - Location: SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI) Starting grade: CL-27 Step 1 \$57,670, to CL-28 Step 25 \$86,403, depending on qualifications. (Advanced starting grade above CL-28 Step 25 may be available with exceptional qualifications.) Opening Date: February 3, 2020 • Applications received by February 21, 2020 will be given priority.

Position Overview:

The Information Technology Security Officer (ITSO) develops Information Technology security policy to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of systems, networks, and data; protected from unauthorized intrusion. The ITSO is responsible for implementing local policies that comply with national IT security standards. At the advanced (CL-28) level the ITSO develops high-level documentation and presentations of security policy, and serves as a team lead to fulfill security objectives. This position reports to the Information Services Manager. Complete position description is available upon request, or via Internet at http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov. This position includes full federal employment benefits, with paid leave and holidays, health insurance, life insurance and federal retirement benefits.

Minimum Qualifications and Preferred Qualifications:

High School graduate with two years of specialized experience in a field closely related to these duties, or a bachelor's degree with honors or distinguishment, or completion of one or more years graduate study in a field closely related to the subject matter of this position; and holder of CompTIA A+" or equivalent certification. Additional preference will be given for college graduation, advanced work experience directly in this field, and for holders of CompTIA "Networks+", "Security+", "CASP+" or equivalent certifications in the fields of network management and IT security. Applicants should demonstrate sound ethics and judgment, and have superior communication skills.

Citizenship Requirement:

Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the U.S.

Notice to Applicants:

Excepted service appointments are "at will" and may be terminated by either the court or the employee at any time for any reason. Selectees are subject to a background investigation and suitability determination, and updated background investigations every five years. Employees are subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Direct deposit of pay is required.

Application Procedure:

Each applicant is required to submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and an AO-78 application form. AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Position is open until filled; applications received by February 21, 2020 will be given priority.

Deliver signed applications to:

Clerk of Court United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands 2nd Floor Horiguchi Bldg, Garapan, Saipan Or, email <u>signed</u> applications to: HR@nmid.uscourts.gov

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Field Engineer

Job Description:

Provide project development, stewardship and construction management in accordance with capital plan, across Mobil's and affiliates' five terminals in Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Marshall Islands. Additionally, provide engineering support to terminal operations and maintenance activities particularly focused on equipment mechanical integrity.

- Responsible for site supervision which includes and requires overseeing project's execution, coordination, preparation and implementation of the various operations integrity management requirements with the aviation operations group, terminal operations group, suppliers, design engineers and affiliate advisors.

 Provide technical support for facility design, maintenance and repair activities as required at the
- facilities assigned to the Engineer.

 Develop and ensure adherence to Safety, Security, Health & Environment (SSH&E) programs to safequard the safety and health of the community, the public and employees.
- Ensure adherence to company processes in procurement, work controls and environmental protection to help improve efficiencies in project management.
- Interface with Engineering Manager, Safety, Éngineering and Technical Advisor, Aviation Operations Manager, Safety Advisors, Contractors, Depot personnel, Environmental and Government representative as required.
- Maintain updated engineering projects on Global Engineering Database.

Qualifications:

- A Bachelor of Engineering degree (Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, or related engineering discipline
- Preferred minimum five years' experience of project engineering and construction management, however, less experienced or graduate engineers will also be considered
- Basic knowledge and understanding of Safety, Security, Health, and Environment (SSH&E)
- management principles
 Proficiency with computer applications in spreadsheet, word processing, project scheduling and
- planning materials specifications and construction drawings · Understanding of US federal and local regulations as applied to project construction activities
- Ability to pro-actively assess operational issues and develop options for solution Ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing

Preference will be given to candidates with relevant experience in tank repair and construction and with knowledge and background in petroleum industry.

This position will be based at Mobil Terminal in Saipan. Occasional off-island business travel will be required as part of the job. Remuneration will be commensurate with the successful applicant's relevant skills and experience.

If you are interested in and/or meet the qualifications for this position, please submit your resume on or before February 21, 2020 to the following:

Attention to: Upper Pacific Islands Fuels Operations Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. P.O. Box 500367 C.K. Saipan, MP 96950 (Fax) 670 234-5126 Correspondence Email: garet.olivares@exxonmobil.com

Mobil is an Equal Opportunity Employer

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, citizenship status, genetic information, protected veteran or disability status.



22 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Off The Wall

Woman sees missing dog on beer cans promoting shelter dogs

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP)— A Florida brewery that recently began placing shelter dogs' faces on beer cans helped reunite a Minnesota woman with her dog, Hazel, who went missing three years ago.

Earlier this month, Motorworks Brewing in Bradenton teamed up with the Manatee County Animal Shelter to turn beer cans into adoption flyers for shelter dogs. Monica Mathis of St. Paul, Minnesota, told KSTP that she couldn't believe it when she spotted Hazel's face on a beer can that had been photographed and posted on social media.

Hazel, a terrier mix, was among the dogs featured on beer cans called "The Four Packs."

Mathis saw the post and something about one dog's eyes caught her attention.

"Oh my gosh that looks like my dog, I think that's my dog," Mathis said. But the featured dog's name was Day Day.

Mathis contacted the shelter, which needed proof that Day Day was in fact Hazel.

"I sent everything I could find—all the pictures so I could stop an adoption process from happening because I could've lost her again," Mathis said.

Mathis said she was living in Iowa when Hazel disappeared in 2017.

"She was on a leash outside and I went to get her and she was gone from our yard,"

Mathis said. She searched, called shelters, but never found the dog.

She said she has no idea how the dog got to Florida.

Then, a new job took her to Minnesota. Several years went by until she saw the beer can campaign on Jan. 24.

The shelter confirmed that Day Day is Hazel.

"I was amazed, I was crying. An emotional wreck," Mathis said.

Mathis said animal services couldn't immediately find her because the contact information on Hazel's microchip was out of date.

"Keep track of exactly what company you use, make sure your stuff gets updated, especially if your pet goes missing and don't ever give up," Mathis said.

Hans Wohlgefahrt of Manatee County Animal Services, said they saw the photos and vet records, which provided proof Hazel belonged to Mathis.

"This dog was such an im-

portant part of her family that she had everything to prove she was her owner," Wohlgefahrt said. "There was really no way we could trace her back to that particular owner. It's a great reminder to people when they do these things to go into their profile and make

sure all their contact information is up to date."

The nonprofit Friends of Manatee County Animal Services will cover the cost of transporting Hazel to Minnesota, which Mathis says will be in time to celebrate the dog's seventh birthday.

Baboon grooms little lion cub in South Africa's Kruger park male "moved from branch to

JOHANNESBURG (AP)— A male baboon carrying and grooming a lion cub is an unusual sight, yet it happened over the weekend in South Africa's Kruger National Park.

The baboon took the cub up into a tree and preened it as if it were its own, said safari operator Kurt Schultz, who in 20 years had never seen such behavior.

"The baboon was grooming the lion cub as if it was a baby baboon," Schultz said in an email to The Associated Press. "Male baboons do a lot of grooming but the care given to this lion cub was the same care given by a female baboon to one of her own young."

Schultz said when he first saw the baboons early Satur-

In this photo taken Satur-

day, Feb. 1, 2020, a male

baboon carries a lion cub

day, the troop of baboons was excited and animated. It is possible they had discovered the lion cub, he said.

The baboons had gathered in an area with granite hills and boulders where lions and leopards have been known to hide their cubs while they go hunting, he said, and that's likely how the baboons found the cub.

Baboons "are really strong animals and when they were all excited and fighting over the baby in the beginning, it could have been injured internally," Schultz said. It was a hot morning and the cub was also showing signs of dehydration, he said.

While the rest of the baboon troop settled down, the branch, grooming and carrying the cub for a long period of time," Schultz said. "The cub seemed very exhausted."

Schultz and others on safaris in the park watched the rare sight and took photographs.

"I don't see a chance of this poor cub surviving. The troop of baboons was large and a lion would not be able to get the young back," Schultz said. "Nature is cruel at most times and the survival of a young predator cub is not easy. The lion cub would pose a threat to the baboons when it gets older. I have witnessed baboons viciously killing leopard cubs and have heard of baboons killing lion cubs."

Hippo Fiona makes a mess of her Super Bowl pick

CINCINNATI (AP)—Bettors looking for an edge in picking Sunday's Super Bowl winner may (or may not) want to consider the selection thrown up by Fiona, the hippopotamus heartthrob at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

Zoo keepers on Thursday placed two "enrichment" toys in front of her, marked with the logos of the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers. While the plan called for Fiona to nudge one of the items with her snout to indicate her pick, she instead chose to lose her leafy green lunch on the Chiefs' item, WLWT-TV reports.

Fiona's premature birth three years ago drew international attention. She has since grown to 1,200 pounds (544 kilograms), roughly the weight of four NFL offensive linemen. It's the third year she has handicapped the Super Bowl, correctly picking the Philadelphia Eagles to beat the New England Patriots in 2018, but missing on the Los Angeles Rams upsetting the Patriots in 2019.

Fiona celebrated her third birthday Jan. 24. She weighed just 29 pounds (13.2 kilograms) at birth, 25 pounds (11.3 kilograms) less than the lowest recorded birth weight for her species.

It's unclear whether Fiona knew the point spread for Sunday's game. The Chiefs are favored by a point.

Mathematicians, geeks celebrate rare palindrome day

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)— Mathematicians and geeks everywhere celebrated a rare occurrence Sunday, 02/02/2020, a kind of 8-digit palindrome that hasn't happened for more than 900 years.

A palindrome is any sequence, phrase or word that reads the same backward as forward. And 02/02/2020 is considered a "universal palindrome" because it reads the same whether written as "Month/Day/ Year" as the United States does, or "Day/Month/Year" as many other countries do.

The last universal palindrome occurred on 11/11/1111. The next one won't come until 12/12/2121.

"It's possible to live your entire life without ever having gone through a universal palindrome, so it's pretty cool to have one in your lifetime," said Heather Pierce, a mathematics lecturer at Emmanuel College in Boston.

The date was cause for celebration on Twitter, where even those who don't specialize in math got a kick out of the rare global palindrome.

"Another one won't happen for 101 years, so make the most of this one! "tweeted actor Mark Hamill of "Star Wars" fame.

"Are you guys pumped?

The big day is finally here!!" tweeted musical comedian "Weird Al" Yankovic.

"Right now people all across the country are getting together with friends and loved ones to celebrate-so exciting. Anyway, from my house to yours, Happy Palindrome Day!"

The Royal Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas was hoping the date would have special meaning for many couples. The chapel noted in its advertising that couples who marry on 02/02/2020 would have their two-year anniversaries on 02/02/2022. "Two being the ultimate symbolic number representing you and your spouse to be.'



OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Worker stole \$17,000 worth of stuff on first shift

HAMDEN, Conn. (AP)— Police in Connecticut are trying to identify a man they say got a job at a gas station and proceeded to steal \$17,000 worth of merchandise and cash on his first, and only, solo overnight shift before disappearing. The man also stole his employment folder, which contained his personal information, so the store's owner does not even know the worker's name, Hamden police said in a statement Tuesday. Police responded to the Go On Gas store late last month. The owner told investigators he used an app on his cellphone to view the store

security cameras and noticed that the new employee had left. The owner went to the store and determined that the worker had stolen lottery tickets, 89 boxes of cigarettes and money worth a total of more than \$17,000. The employment file was also missing. Anyone who recognizes the suspect in a surveillance image released by police is asked to contact investigators.

Scary paint job makes \$500k Florida home look like cartoon

NAPLES, Fla. (AP)—Florida residents in an upscale community are seeing red over a paint job on a half-million-dollar home. The home was painted in large patches

colors with random splatters throughout. The home in the Il Regalo Circle Community in Naples resembles a preschool play toy or cartoon home. Even the trees, lawn and mailbox were splattered with paint. Neighbors said the paint job got worse over the course of a week. WBBH News reports that Collier County Code Enforcement are investigating the paint job. Jeffrey Leibman, 40, is listed as the owner of the home, according to property appraiser records cited by WBBH. The management company for the neighborhood said he no longer lives there. The station said Leibman could not be reached for comment.

of extremely bright primary

Package labeled 'Bag Full of Drugs' leads to Florida arrests

MIAMI (AP)—Two men charged with drug trafficking could have done a better job hiding their wares than using a package labeled "Bag Full of Drugs," Florida authorities said.

Ian Simmons and Joshua Reinhardt, both 34, were pulled over in Santa Rosa County on Saturday after a trooper clocked them going 95 mph (153 kph) on Interstate 10 on the state's Panhandle, according to a Florida Highway Patrol arrest report.

The trooper determined that

Reinhardt was the subject of an active felony warrant for violation of probation in Orange County. He requested backup.

A Santa Rosa County Sheriff's deputy arrived to assist, and a K-9 alerted to the presence of contraband in the vehicle, the arrest report said. Authorities found approximately 75 grams of methamphetamine, 1.36 kilograms of the date-rape drug GHB, 1 gram of cocaine, 3.6 grams of fentanyl, 15 MDMA tablets and drug paraphernalia. Both men were taken into

are charged with trafficking in methamphetamine and GHB, three counts of possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. "Note to self- do not traffic

custody and taken to jail. They

your illegal narcotics in bags labeled 'Bag Full Of Drugs,' deputies wrote on Facebook. "Our K-9's can read."

Jail records did not say whether the men had attorneys who could comment.

Science & Technology



Alexa, read me a story: Audio content for kids on the rise

NEW YORK (AP)—Melanie Musson in Belgrade, Montana, does a lot of driving with her four girls. Juggling a broad age range, 1 to 9, she's forever searching for ways to keep them all entertained without relying entirely on video.

While she still adores paper and tablet books for her kids. Musson said: "I think when they hear without seeing, they have to make up visuals in their heads. That's so good. They have to be engaged and

get more out of it."

There are plenty of quality audiobooks, podcasts and music for the young, she noted, but weeding through thousands of selections and jumping from platform to platform is a challenge since audio content has exploded over the last few years.

Dad blogger Balint Horvath in Zurich agreed after trying to make sense of kid options for his 14-month-old daughter.

Rosary at 8:30am.

will be laid to peaceful rest.

that would organize podcasts according to different criteria. Information without proper searchability is like looking for a needle in a haystack," said Horvath, who works as a productivity coach for research and development teams.

Audiobooks and music for kids have been around awhile, but podcasts made for the 3-to-12 set are relatively new, driving more parents to choose one-stop platforms that include all formats

Demand is "primarily driven by parents who are podcast listeners or audiobook fans," said Frannie Ucciferri, associate managing editor for the nonprofit Common Sense Media.

With a huge bump in podcasts overall, the value of audio content for kids hasn't been lost on companies large and small.

Spotify recently launched a new ad-free app, Spotify Kids, as a free extension for premium family subscribers.

it's packed with singalongs, soundtracks and stories for children as young as 3. A platform called Pinna is among the latest to launch ad-free with a variety of content and ages in mind, at \$7.99 a month or \$79.99 a year. Others stick to podcasts alone, while Amazon's FreeTime Unlimited allows parents to customize a child's experience to provide the most relevant books, videos, apps and more without ads, starting at \$2.99 a month.

TECH Q&A By STEVE ALEXANDER

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



Deciding if you need app security updates

I recently bought a Windows 10 PC to replace my Windows 7 computer—I knew it would be risky to keep using Windows 7 after it stopped getting security updates in January. But then I installed Adobe Acrobat Pro DC 2015 and Microsoft Office 2010 on my new PC, even though both will stop getting security updates later this year. Am I taking a big risk?

I'd buy newer programs that will receive security updates. A But while the importance of updates was clear with Windows 7, it's a gray area with software apps.

Why? When an operating system such as Windows 7 doesn't receive security updates, it exposes millions of people to the risk of having their computers taken over. But individual programs, particularly older ones, aren't used by as many people. They are a less appealing target for hackers. What's more, a program flaw might not allow an attacker to take over a computer. That said, there is some risk in using apps without security updates, and you have to decide whether the risk is acceptable. Here are some things to consider:

- There's no way to be sure how much security you need. For example, security patches were issued in 2019 for your versions of Adobe Acrobat and Microsoft Office. But in neither case was there an immediate threat that these security "holes" would be attacked. Did the security patches prevent attacks from happening later? We'll never know.
- The cost of a security lapse is hard to predict. Adobe was hurt last October, when an insecure company database exposed the business details of nearly 7.5 million Adobe customers. One simple and avoidable security mistake may have caused lasting damage.

Because of radio interference, I have poor FM radio recep-Q tion in my downtown apartment, which has tall buildings on three sides. Would a better indoor antenna help?

FM radio interference in downtown areas is usually caused Awhen the radio signal is reflected by tall buildings. A reflected signal may "cancel out" the original one, causing bad over-the-air reception. A new indoor antenna probably won't solve that problem.

A better solution would be to use online streaming to listen to FM radio on a smartphone, computer, internet-enabled TV, game console or other internet-connected device.

SiriusXM, a satellite radio service, offers an \$8 a month internet service that connects to many devices (see tinyurl.com/ yx3duvhf). Alternatively, there are free FM radio apps for computer and smartphone that often include advertising or offer additional for-pay services (see list at tinyurl.com/yxx4ppg7). Two of those apps, iHeartRadio and TuneIn, carry several Minneapolis-St. Paul stations.

I have a Google Chromebook computer. Can it use the tax program TurboTax?

Yes. While Chromebooks are unable to run the TurboTax A used by PCs or Macs, they can use the online version of the program without installing anything. The online program runs in your device's Chrome browser.



Memorial Chapel to San Antonio Church at 7:45am. Responso service will be at 8:00am followed by recitation of the Holy

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Interment Services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he

Thank You - Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Pedro DLG Manalo, Myrna S. Aquino, Children and Families

24 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

Kirk Douglas, longtime influential movie star, dies at 103

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kirk Douglas, the intense, muscular actor with the dimpled chin who starred in "Spartacus," "Lust for Life" and dozens of other films, helped fatally weaken the blacklist against suspected Communists and reigned for decades as a Hollywood maverick and patriarch, died Wednesday, his family said. He was 103.

"To the world, he was a legend, an actor from the golden age of movies who lived well into his golden years, a humanitarian whose commitment to justice and the causes he believed in set a standard for all of us to aspire to," his son Michael said in a statement on his Instagram account.

Kirk Douglas' death was first reported by People magazine.

His granite-like strength and underlying vulnerability made the son of illiterate Russian immigrants one of the top stars of the 20th century. He appeared in more than 80 films, in roles ranging from Doc Holliday in "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" to Vincent van Gogh in "Lust for Life."

He worked with some of Hollywood's greatest directors, from Vincente Minnelli



Unofficial Hollywood ambassador Gregg Donovan, right, sets flowers on the Walk of Fame star on actor Kirk Douglas in Los Angeles Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020.

and Billy Wilder to Stanley Kubrick and Elia Kazan. His career began at the peak of the studios' power, more than 70 years ago, and ended in a more diverse, decentralized era that he helped bring about.

Always competitive, including with his own family, Douglas never received an Academy Award for an individual film, despite being nominated three times—for "Champion," "The Bad and the Beautiful" and "Lust for Life."

But in 1996, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded him an honorary Oscar. His other awards included a Presidential Medal of Freedom and a lifetime achievement award from the American Film Institute.

He was a category unto

In his latter years, he was a final link to a so-called "Golden Age," a man nearly as old as the industry itself.

In his youth, he represented a new kind of performer, more independent and adventurous than Clark Gable, Spencer

Tracy and other giants of the studio era of the 1930s and 1940s, and more willing to speak his mind.

Reaching stardom after World War II, he was as likely to play cads (the movie producer in "Bad and the Beautiful," the journalist in "Ace in the Hole") as he was suited to play heroes, as alert to the business as he was at home before the camera. He started his own production company in 1955, when many actors still depended on the studios, and directed some of his later films.

A born fighter, Douglas was especially proud of his role in the the downfall of Hollywood's blacklist, which halted and ruined the careers of writers suspected of pro-Communist activity or sympathies. By the end of the '50s, the use of banned writers was widely known within the industry, but not to the general public.

Douglas, who years earlier had reluctantly signed a loyalty oath to get the starring role in "Lust for Life," provided a crucial blow when he openly credited the former Communist and Oscar winner Dalton Trumbo for script work on "Spartacus," the epic about a slave rebellion during ancient Rome that was released in 1960.

Weinstein accuser says he trapped her during hotel assault

NEW YORK (AP)—As Harvey Weinstein stripped off his clothes, pulled down her dress and groped her breast in a hotel bathroom in 2013, Lauren Marie Young says he also offered a chilling excuse for his lewd behavior: "This is what all actresses do to make it."

Young's account of her encounter with then-one of Hollywood's most powerful movie makers came on Wednesday after she was called to the witness stand at Weinstein's New York City rape trial in a final push by prosecutors to show there was a pattern to how he pre yed on women.

Weinstein persisted by masturbating, despite her telling him, "'No, no, no' the whole time," Young told jurors as the the last of six women to testify at the trial about alleged series of sexual assaults by the defendant.

The criminal charges are based on two allegations: that he raped a woman in March 2013 and forced oral sex on a TV and film production assistant in 2006.

Additional women, includ-

ing Young, have been allowed to testify as prosecutors attempt to show there was a practiced method to Weinstein's attacks, including inviting women to his hotel room to discuss business, then disrobing and demanding sexual favors.

Weinstein, 67, has insisted any sexual encounters were consensual.

Young began her testimony by describing how she put on her favorite dress before heading off to a meeting with Weinstein where she expected to "network and pitch

After he invited her up to his Beverly Hills hotel room, Weinstein lured her into the bathroom while a friend of his who helped arrange the meeting, Mexican model Claudia Salinas, closed the door behind them, she said.

The witness testified that after Weinstein was nude, he kept her from escaping by pushing her against the sink and blocking her way to the door.

"I felt so trapped and I was in shock," she told jurors, fighting back tears. She said she pleaded with Weinstein not to hurt her before he finally stepped out of the bathroom.

She pulled up her dress and walked out to find Salinas still "standing right there," she said. "I shot her an evil look and I left as quick as I could without saying anything."

On cross-examination, defense attorney Damon Cheronis questioned Young about her admission that she was initially confused about when the alleged assault occurred and her description of the lumbering Weinstein so quickly taking advantage of her. His voice rising, Cheronis asked, "And then this big, fat man does a ninia tear off of his clothes, right?"

Cheronis also seized on some inconsistencies in Young's courtroom testimony compared to her previous statements to investigators. For example, on the witness stand, she said Weinstein grazed her genitals, but in 2018 she told a Beverly Hills police detective. "I don't think he touched me down there."

himself, a force for change and symbol of endurance.

A charismatic Robbie gives Harley Quinn her wings

By JOCELYN NOVECK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

At one point in "Birds of Prey," crime lord Roman Sionis, aka Ewan McGregor, sits down with a tub of popcorn to watch Harley Quinn suffer through a brutal interrogation.

He's a psychopath—well, so is Harley, for that matter but Roman has the right idea. As portrayed by the effortlessly charismatic Margot Robbie, Harley's always gonna be the most interesting person in the room—or on the screen. Grab your pop-

Robbie is certainly killing it these days, and we're not just talking about the escalating body count (especially if you include violence by glitter gun) in this visually arresting and often clever—if not particularly profoundinstallment of the DC Extended Universe. Heartbreaking in "Bombshell" and poignant in "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," Robbie is looking more and more like she can do most anything. And she's a producer



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Margot Robbie in a scene from "Birds of Prey."

mous movie star at age 29 weren't enough.

But back to "Birds of Prey," Prey (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)," an extended title that hints at what Robbie, director Cathy Yan and screenwriter Christina Hodson are trying to do: free Harley once and for all from her ex-boyfriend, that Joker guy, and plant her firmly within a girl gang.

And even though the Joker is all the rage these days, thanks to Joaquin Phoenix in that other movie, Harley proves a worthy subject of her own film, especially with her intriguing background (a PhD

here, too, as if being a ginor- and perhaps a medical degree), her broken past, and her obsessive-compulsive need for attention," in her words. or more precisely, "Birds of It's a shame the movie doesn't dig deeper into some of these idiosyncratic intricacies of character—but hey, there's always the sequel.

You don't need much previous knowledge to get up to speed, thanks to a clever animated intro, narrated by Harley (in a less-than-convincing Brooklyn-Gotham accent, it must be said). Born Harleen Ouinzel, Harley became a shrink only to fall in love with Mr. J at Arkham, proving once again that advanced degrees are no protection against bad taste in boyfriends.

Viewership down sharply for Trump's State of the Union

NEW YORK (AP)—Viewership was sharply down for President Donald Trump's State of the Union address on most of the top television networks—except for Fox News Channel.

The Nielsen company estimated that 37.2 million people watched Trump's speech live across 12 TV networks Tuesday night. That's down from 46.8 million people who saw his speech last year, and the smallest audience for his presidency.

Fox News had by far the biggest audience for a speech that was widely viewed as a

Tom Hanks, Chris Rock added to Oscars presenters

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Tom Hanks, Chris Rock and Taika Waititi are some of the presenters who will take the Oscars stage at the Dolby Theatre during Sunday's ceremony.

Producers Lynette Howell Taylor and Stephanie Allain announced Wednesday the final slate of actors who signed up to present awards on the ABC broadcast along with Jane Fonda, Oscar Isaac and Natalie Portman.

Other names in the overall lineup include Mahershala Ali, Will Ferrell, Keanu Reeves, Regina King, Salma Hayek, Gal Gadot, Spike Lee and Sigourney Weaver.

The producers said in a statement that they are grateful to have a dynamic group of presenters for an exciting show.

The 92nd Academy Awards will be televised live on ABC Sunday starting at 8 p.m. ET.



kickoff to the president's reelection campaign. Nielsen said 11.6 million people watched on Fox, up 2% from last year's State of the Union.

But there were big viewership tumbles for other networks—41% down from last year on MSNBC, 33% down on NBC and 30% each on CBS and ABC, Nielsen said.

NBC's total of 4.8 million came in second to Fox News.

State of the Union viewership tends to fall off the longer a president is in office; President Barack Obama's last such address in 2016 had 31 million. But the 37.7 million who watched Obama during his reelection year in 2012 slightly topped Trump at the same point in his presidency, Nielsen said.

Conservators work on items damaged in Chinatown museum fire

NEW YORK (AP)—A volunteer team of conservators is working to salvage some of the 85,000 artifacts feared lost in a fire in the heart of Manhattan's Chinatown.

About a third of the collection belonging to the Museum of Chinese in America has been removed after fire and building officials deemed some areas of the structure safe, the New York Daily News reported Tuesday.

The historic, city-owned building was the storage site for the museum, which is nearby. A fire raged through the structure the night of Jan. 23, and firefighters were still working to control it 24 hours after it was reported.

Conservators from the Museum of the City of New York, the Center for Jewish History and other institutions have been volunteering to rescue and restore the archives, which tell the story of Chinese migration to the United States. They include textiles, restaurant menus and tickets for ship passages.

Many of the items have been taken to the building that houses the museum. The landlord there has donated the fourth floor as a temporary storage space, and conservators are working to dry out

items that have suffered severe water damage.

be removed from other parts of the building that caught fire. About 35,000 items in the collection had been digitized

It's unclear when articles can

collection had been digitized, and those files were backed up, said Nancy Yao Maasbach, the president of the museum.

There are signs that the loss may not be as great as originally feared, acting Cul-

tural Affairs Commissioner Kathleen Hughes said in a statement last week.

"Extraordinary efforts have given us hope that MOCA's priceless archives might be saved," Hughs said.

Nine firefighters and a 59-year-old man were injured in the blaze. The man was rescued from the fifth floor of the building and was reported to be in serious condition.

'Homeland' stars say farewell to their Showtime spy series

NEW YORK (AP)—As the Showtime spy thriller "Homeland" comes to an end, Claire Danes hopes that her portrayal of a character with bipolar disorder helps destigmatize mental illness.

"I don't think there have been many shows or many opportunities in pop culture to focus on people who are wired a little differently from most, and experience the world through such a different filter," Danes told The Associated Press on the red carpet for the Showtime series' eight and final season Monday night at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Danes, who plays CIA analyst Carrie Mathison, said she took seriously the task of playing the highs and lows of mania and depression. "I was really humbled by the process in my efforts to kind of make

sense of it, and just have profound respect for people who live with this day in and day out," Danes said.

"Homeland" has also helped explain the complexity of national security through the work of the intelligence community. Before each season, principal cast members and producers meet with intelligence professionals to discuss the issues that "keep them up at night."

Danes said these are the people that help keep the world safer.

"I'm in the land of make believe. You know, I take risks in a very qualified way. And these people do it for real. So, you know, all the respect in the world to them," Danes said.

Mandy Patinkin, who portrays high-ranking CIA official Saul Berenson, shares that respect, calling members of the intelligence community, "Patriots like you've never seen in your life."

The final season will be a family affair for Danes—her husband, Hugh Dancy, joins the cast, even if the couple don't have any scenes together. "It was so, so wonderful to be able to share the show from the inside out like this with my husband."

Teen in sketchy situation resists efforts to help her

EAR ABBY: My 15-year-old granddaughter has lived for the past several years in an environment with adults who have done drugs, can't or won't keep a job and are in and out of jail. I want her to have a better life, and I try to explain what a responsible adult life looks like. But when I do, she accuses me of being judgmental and nonaccepting because these people are "nice." How can I get her to understand that the lifestyle she's exposed to isn't good without coming off as judgmental?

AT A LOSS FOR WORDS

DEAR AT A LOSS: The lessons we teach others don't always have to be verbal. One way would be to expose your grand-daughter—as often as possible—to people who have chosen a different way of life and are reaping the rewards for it. Perhaps then she will begin to draw her own conclusions and realize that she can have a different life if she's willing to work toward it.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-fiance decided to leave our relationship and our 10-month-old son, "Nicky," about a month ago. He sees Nicky regularly and is a good father. I know our relationship is over and that it's not going to be fixed. To be honest, when he left, I was relieved.

The other day, I suggested to my ex that maybe once a month we take our son out together to do something, like go to the park or the zoo. My reasoning is that Nicky needs to know that

even though his mom and dad are no longer together, we can still get along. His response was he didn't think it was a good idea. He doesn't want our son to get the wrong impression. I just said "OK" and left it alone.

Is he right? Would it confuse our son, or is he being selfish? It seems unrealistic to me that we will never do anything together. My son is my No. 1 priority, and I just want to handle it the best that I can for him. Please help me.

CONFUSED IN SANTA MARIA, CALIF.

DEAR CONFUSED: Your ex may have said what he did because he doesn't understand that you have accepted that the romance is really over. Don't accuse him of being selfish. Be patient. In the future, Nicky will understand that, although Mom and Dad are not together, they get along, if you truly DO get along. As Nicky grows older, there will be events such as birthdays, sporting events, graduations, etc., you will probably wind up enjoying together—or eventually with significant others or spouses included.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old dancer, and I recently had a recital. The mothers came backstage to help their children change in the dressing rooms.

A girl my age who has two lesbian mothers was near me while I changed. It made me feel self-conscious. I'm normally not like this, but it felt awkward, to say the least. I'm not against

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



same-sex couples, but it felt weird. Am I overreacting?

MIDWEST DANCER

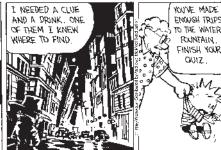
DEAR MIDWEST DANCER: I think so. Those two mothers were more interested in what was going on with their daughter than with you. If you plan to become a professional dancer —or part of any branch of the performing arts—you will be changing costumes under all kinds of conditions. This means you will be around straight males and females, gay people of both genders and, occasionally, trans people. It's a fact of life because separate dressing rooms may not be available.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touchtone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashton Kutcher, 42; Chris Rock, 55; Garth Brooks, 58; James Spader, 60

Happy Birthday: Change may not be your first choice but it will be necessary. Adapt, and you will come out on top. Relax, observe and follow the path of least resistance. It's a time of self-discovery, realization and exploring your purpose. Going through the process of everyday living will make vou realize what's important and how to reach your goal. Your numbers are 6, 18, 25, 29, 31, 37, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Complete what you start, and ease any guilt you may have about going out and having some well-deserved downtime. A chance to improve your surroundings or make a move will lift your spirits. An unexpected financial gain looks promising. ••

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Solicit help. Delegate what you want others to do, and offer praise for any assistance you receive. A positive attitude will make it much easier to reach your goal and to connect with supportive people. Romance is on the rise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Consider what's offered as well as the consequence of any change you want to make. Someone you trust to help you get ahead will be interested in taking credit for your ideas and hard work. Protect against being used. ���

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Refuse to let your emotions crush your plans. Con-

centrate on being creative and using your skills to help you reach your objectives. Spending time with someone you love will improve your

relationship and boost your confidence. Personal gain looks promising.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you are uncertain, leave important decisions until you feel more in control Don't put up with anyone who is condescending or abusive. Avoid situations that could lead to a confrontation. Work alone, and finish what you start.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Present your ideas, and follow through with your plans. Proceed with confidence. Do what's best for yourself, regardless of who supports what you plan to do and who doesn't. Change begins within. Make your dream come true. Romance is encouraged.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Calm down, think twice and don't believe everything you hear. Go to the source, ask questions and find out the truth before you make a decision that can influence your life personally or professionally. Patience will be required. ••

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Live and learn. Every experience will be worth its weight in gold. Travel for educational purposes. Rely on your memory to help you make deci-

sions. An open attitude will help you replace an odd situation with one that serves you well. •••• SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Check up on health, wealth and relation-

ships. Consider what and who requires extra attention. Don't put up with anyone using emotional manipulation or deceit to take advantage of your kindheartedness. Make do with what you have, and avoid unnecessary expenses. ••• **EUGENIA**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way. A partnership looks exciting, and financial gain is within reach. A romantic gesture will improve your personal life. Attending a reunion or connecting with someone from your past is favored. **200**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep moving forward. Use your time wisely. Refuse to get caught up in someone else's dilemma. Don't jeopardize your job or your health for senseless reasons. Stress will cause anxiety and setbacks. Make your emotional,

mental and physical well-being priorities. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): What are you waiting for? Flesh out your creative ideas and turn them into something that excites you. Socialize with people who share your interests. Your unusual approach to whatever you do will cre-

ate a stir and drum up unexpected help. **2000** Birthday Baby: You are willful, skilled and focused. You are a leader and a crusader.

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Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column

and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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WONDERWORD. OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY; All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

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Rose asks for reinstatement, cites Astros and steroids



League Baseball to end his lifetime ban, saying the penalty is unfair compared with discipline for steroids use and electronic sign stealing.

Rose's lawyers submitted the application Wednesday to baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred, who in December 2015 denied the previous request by the career hits leader.

"The time has come to recognize that Mr. Rose's penalty has become grossly disproportionate relative to Major League Baseball's treatment of severe wrongdoing by ownership, management and players," the petition said.

Rose agreed to the lifetime ban in August 1989 after an investigation for MLB by lawyer John Dowd found that Rose placed numerous bets on the Cincinnati Reds to win from 1985-87 while playing for and managing the team.

"There has never been any allegation that Mr. Rose's misconduct was intended to gain a competitive advantage over other teams," stated the petition, which was first reported by ESPN. "When it comes to subsequent violations of Major League Baseball rules — namely steroid use and electronic sign stealing — this is clearly not the case. They have intentionally and dramatically affected the results of plays and games, including the outcomes of two consecutive World Series. These acts manifestly and deliberately violate the spirit and letter of the rules."

Rose, who turns 79 in April, asked to meet with Manfred, who in his 2015 denial wrote that the 17-time All-Star had "not presented credible evidence of a reconfigured life either by an honest acceptance by him of his wrongdoing, so clearly established in the Dowd Report, or by a rigorous, self-aware and sustained program of avoidance by him of all the circumstances that led to his permanent ineligibility."

Rose cited the joint drug agreement between MLB and the players' association, which calls for 80-game suspensions for first offenders for performance-enhancing drugs, 162-



game bans for second offenders and lifetime bans for thirds penalties with a chance for reinstatement. Manfred reinstated reliever Jenrry Mejia, the only player disciplined three times for PEDs under the major league drug program.

Rose also referenced Manfred's decision on Jan. 13 to suspend Houston manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow for one season for their role in the Astros' use of electronics to steal catchers' signs

in 2017 and 2018 but to not discipline players.

"Proportionality has long been the governing norm when Major League Baseball commissioners have assessed discipline," the petition said. "That guiding principle has not changed, but Major League Baseball's reactions to potential threats to the integrity of the game have greatly evolved since Mr. Rose's conduct resulted in a lifetime ban from the game in 1989, and more particularly since his 2015 petition for reinstatement.'

Rose also asked baseball's Hall of Fame to remove the prohibition adopted by the Hall's board of directors in 1991 to prohibit players on the permanently ineligible list from appearing on the Hall ballot of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Rose's 20-page petition was submitted by his lawyer, Ray Genco, and three law professors: Mark D. Rosenbaum (UC Irvine), Erwin

Steinbrenner wonders 'what if?' Yanks feel cheated by Astros

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—New York Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner understands why his players feel cheated by the Houston Astros.

If Houston had not been using a video camera to steal opposing catcher's signs in 2017, maybe the Yankees would have won the AL Championship Series instead of losing to the Astros in seven games.

When the report came out, I was as upset as anyone," Steinbrenner said Wednesday at the baseball owners meeting. "Clearly, there were direct implications to my organization, our team, our 2017 team. But at some point I think we all for the sake of the game and the good of the game, need to move on."

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred issued a report on Jan. 13 that concluded the Astros broke rules against electronic sign stealing in 2017, including during the postsea-

son. Houston won all four home games against the Yankees in the playoffs, when Astros players had the advantage of the sign-stealing system, and lost all three in the Bronx. The scores of the first two games were both 2-1.

Steinbrenner is among the Yankees who wondered: what if?

"I think enough people have brought that to my attention and I'm a reasonably smart guy. I've certainly thought that," Steinbrenner said.

Three days after Manfred issued his report, CC Sabathia vented his anger on his R2C2 podcast. Sabathia won Game 3 at home against the Astros in 2017 and lost Game 7 on the

"There's no way that you can tell me that we weren't better than them," Sabathia said, mixing in profanities. "I cried like a baby. ... Forever in my mind now, in '17, we won the World

Houston went on to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in seven games.

'We would have whooped the Dodgers' (behind)," Sabathia said.

After the report in The Athletic last November in which former Astros pitcher Mike Fiers revealed the sign-stealing system, Yankees right fielder Aaron Judge tweeted: "Wait... what?" Judge later deleted his November 2017 Instagram post after Houston's Jose Altuve won the AL MVP award, a message that read: "Nobody more deserving than you!! Congrats on an unforgettable 2017!!"

Turning attention ahead, Steinbrenner sees the Yankees as annual contenders with an offense led by Judge, Gary Sánchez, Gleyber Torres, a rotation headed by Gerrit Cole and one of the strongest bullpens. New York has not won the World Series since 2009.

"I think we've got a very, very good group of young players, and it's going to be that way for the next two or three years," he said. "We'll see what happens when some of these guys hit free agency. But we've got a good solid base here for a good three years."

Because the Yankees will be paying luxury tax for the second straight season, New York may wait until after opening day to reach long-term contracts with some of those players. Last year, Luis Severino agreed to a \$40 million, four-year contract and Aaron Hicks to a \$70 million, seven-year deal.

"It's important to show the other players and our fans what we believe, and our belief is especially the kids that come up through our system or that we get at a young age ... wanting them to be in the pinstripes for a very long time."

In this June 24, 2016, file photo, former Cincinnati Reds player Pete Rose (14) holds his place marker during a ceremony to honor the 1976 World Series champion team, before the Reds' baseball game against the San Diego Padres in Cincinnati.

Chemerinsky (California) and Evan Caminker (Michigan).

Rose also applied for reinstatement in September 1997 and met with Commissioner Bud Selig in November 2002, but Selig never ruled on Rose's request.

Yankees lefty James Paxton has back surgery, out 3-4 months

By RONALD BLUM AP BASEBALL WRITER

All during the offseason, New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman worried about James Paxton's back pain and kept suggesting: "Let's just get the surgery out of the way. We're losing time."

Paxton was examined by three doctors, who said the issue could resolve itself.

"They all came to the same conclusion: No, no, no," Cashman recalled.

But Paxton did not get better and finally had the operation Wednesday. He is expected to be sidelined until May or June.

New York said Dr. Andrew Dossett in Dallas performed a microscopic lumbar discectomy, in which a herniated disk is repaired, and removed a peridiscal cyst. The Yankees estimated Paxton will be able to start throwing in about six weeks and could pitch in a major league game in three-to-four months.

Paxton left his final regularseason start, at Texas on Sept. 27, after one inning with what the Yankees said was a tight left glute muscle. That ended Paxton's career-best streak of victories in 10 consecutive starts.

Paxton was examined then by Yankees head team physician Dr. Christopher Ahmad and Rangers physician Dr. Keith Meister, and the pitcher received an injection of painkiller. Paxton went 1-0 with a 3.46 ERA in three postseason starts. allowing five runs in 13 innings.

"It did resolve. He pitched extremely well, especially in Houston." Cashman said. "But when he started ramping up his winter program about four weeks or so ago, he started feeling symptoms again."

Paxton was examined by Dossett, received a new round of injections and was told to see how he felt in three weeks.

"It turned out clearly that that did not resolve the problem, so surgical intervention then was the last resort," Cashman said.

Andy Reid tells parade-goers Chiefs will win again next year

Hundreds of thousands of Kansas City Chiefs fans braved sub-freezing wind chills on Wednesday to celebrate the team's first Super Bowl victory in 50 years, and if Coach Andy Reid is to be believed, they'll be back for an encore next year.

Fans lined the 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) parade route to thank their football heroes for bringing the Lombardi Trophy back to Kansas City and ending a Super Bowl drought that began after the Chiefs won Super Bowl IV in 1970.

Reid thanked the fans for their continued support and for attending the parade.

"Next year, we're coming right back here," Reid said in a brief speech. "One more time baby, one more time."

Quarterback Patrick Mahomes, the Super Bowl MVP who has captured the fans' devotion in only his third NFL season, struggled with a strained voice but said the championship fulfilled two goals he set when he became the team's starter.

First, he said, he wanted to bring the Lamar Hunt trophy for winning the AFC championship back to Kansas City. The late Lamar Hunt and the Hunt family founded the team as the Dallas Texans in 1960 before moving the team to Kansas City in 1963 and changing the name.

"The second most important thing I wanted to do was get the Lombardi Trophy for the greatest coach of all time, Andy Reid," he said.

Hunt's son, Clark Hunt, said his father told him before he died in 2006 that the parade and celebration after the 1970 Super Bowl was the best day of his life because of the joy of the fans.

"Thank you for giving my dad and I some the best days of our lives," he told the fans. "We love you."

Tyreek Hill, the speedster wide receiver, also promised fans the team would be back for more Super Bowl parades. He told the fans that their support and love fueled the team's success

"That's what makes us ball everyday," Hill said. "Get your tickets, you are going to be in this same spot next year."

During the parade, several players, including Chris Jones, Tyrann Mathieu and Travis Kelce, got off their double-decker buses to high-five fans and dance down the street. Reid left his bus to show The Lombardi Trophy to fans along the route. Other players sprayed fans with champagne and some, including Mahomes, chugged beer. At one point, Mahomes was seen pouring a beer from the top of



a double-decker bus into the mouth of Kelce, who was in the street.

The event was nearly the parade route. marred about three hours be-fore the parade began, when thrown and patrol

an impaired driver broke through a barrier and sped along the parade route. Stop Sticks were thrown and patrol



vehicles put the car into a forced spin, stopping it near a crowd of fans. The driver and another person were arrested

at gunpoint, according to officials and video footage of the incident.

No one was injured. Police said in a news release the driver is under investigation

AP A pickup with Kansas City Chiefs flags travels in a parade through downtown Kansas City, Mo. Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 to celebrate the Chiefs victory in NFL's Super Bowl 54.

for impairment. No weapons were found in the vehicle and there were no indications of terrorist activity, said police, who were trying to determine the suspect's motive.

Mayor Quinton Lucas told WDAF-TV he was proud of the quick response of officers, who were cheered by fans who witnessed the incident.

"We have even more heroes to cheer today," Lucas said.

Some fans slept overnight and others began arriving in downtown Kansas City in the early hours Wednesday to reserve choice viewing spots.

"This is so awesome," said Shauntel Lyons, 40, of Kansas City, who was a Chiefs cheerleader from 2003 to 2005. "I learned so many great lessons from my time with the team. To see them bring home that trophy after 50 years is so gratifying. I'm just glad to be part of it."

Fans bundled up for chilly conditions but the forecast for 2 to 3 inches of snow did not materialize, with only light snow falling intermittently.

Wind chills in the teens didn't deter fans like Dana Reynolds, of Holt, who has been a Chiefs fan for more than 30 years. She and others arrived at 5 a.m. and were taking shelter under a canopy, complete with electric hand warmers, food and everything needed to survive the hourslong wait.

"We want to celebrate the Chiefs season and bring the city together," she said. "It's been worth the wait. What Andy Reid and this team have done for the city is amazing."

The Kansas Legislature took the day off to celebrate and their Missouri counterparts scheduled a light workday. Many area businesses also planned to close or open on a reduced schedule. At Children's Mercy Kansas City, the emergency room at the main downtown hospital was open, but appointments and some surgeries were rescheduled or moved.

The Chiefs Super Bowl win came five years after the city's Kansas City Royals baseball team won a World Series. An estimated 800,000 people flocked to that victory parade, shattering expectations in a city with a population of about 470,000 and a metropolitan area of about 2 million. There was no immediate estimate of the crowd size of Wednesday's rally.

49ers lament missed chances in Super Bowl loss

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—The parade the San Francisco 49ers had hoped to be enjoying was being held a couple thousand miles away in Kansas City.

Instead of celebrating a record-tying sixth Super Bowl title that seemed so close, the Niners spent the morning Wednesday packing up their lockers, saying good-byes and wondering how what seemed to be a safe 10-point fourth-quarter lead disappeared so quickly in a 31-20 loss to the Chiefs.

"As an offense, as a team we've been in that situation multiple times and we answered the bell," quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo said. "It's tough when that one time you didn't. That's what people will remember. It's the world we live in. You just have to own up to it and be a man about it. It will fuel us in the offseason, fuel me in the offseason to come back better."

A remarkable turnaround season filled with memorable moments as the 49ers (15-4) became the third team ever to make the Super Bowl following a season with four or fewer wins, ended only in disappointment.

Garoppolo and the offense fell flat in the fourth quarter,

the defense couldn't stop Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs offense and the Niners became the third team to lose a Super Bowl after leading by at least 10 points in the second half

"It's like watching the 'Titanic," receiver Emmanuel Sanders said about watching the film. "You hope the ship don't sink. For some reason, the ship keeps sinking over and over."

The Niners appeared to be in great shape when they took over with a 20-10 lead and less than 12 minutes to play on an interception by Tarvarius Moore.

Garoppolo then completed a 12-yard pass on second down to George Kittle to make him 18 for 21 on the day. Garoppolo completed only 2 of his final 10 passes, faltering down the stretch.

A missed high pass to Deebo Samuel and a false start on Joe Staley led to a punt that set up the first of Kansas City's three fourth-quarter TDs.

That score came after Tyreek Hill got open on a 44-yard pass on third-and-15 as free safety Jimmie Ward had to guard against a big play over the middle and couldn't get over in time to break up the pass.

"It was a right call, it was

a perfect throw and a great catch," Ward said. "Me being in the middle of the field, I really couldn't get over. ... The only way I would have played that better is if I would have guessed. I didn't have any choice."

San Francisco then went three-and-out on the next drive with Garoppolo's second-down pass to an open Kittle over the middle getting batted down at the line by Chris Jones.

After the Chiefs took the lead, Garoppolo missed an open Sanders behind the secondary on a third-down pass from the Kansas City 49.

"At some point you have to move on from it. It sucks," Garoppolo said. "Obviously, some throws I wish I had back, some throws I wish I made differently. The throw to E, I missed him, put a little too much on it."

A sack on the next play and a long TD run by Damien Williams put the game out of reach, leading to the offseason of wondering, "What if?"

"It was a collective effort," right tackle Mike McGlinchey said. "We had multiple opportunities to finish the game as a team. We fell short of that. There's no blame to be put on anybody."

The Niners now look to use

the disappointment as motivation but first will come the inevitable changes that happen each year in the NFL. Key players like Sanders, Ward and defensive lineman Arik Armstead are all eligible to be free agents.

They each expressed a desire to return but it might be tough to bring them all back under the salary cap. There will be other moves as well as San Francisco looks to avoid the Super Bowl hangover that has plagued so many runnersup in the past.

Only three teams have bounced back from the disappointment of a loss in the title game to win it all the following year, with Dallas and Miami doing it in back-to-back seasons in 1971-72 and then the New England Patriots again in 2018.

Eight other Super Bowl losers returned to the game the next season only to lose again, including Buffalo three times. But 15 of the past 33 teams that lost in the Super Bowl failed to even make it back to the playoffs the following year, including the Los Angeles Rams this season.

"If it doesn't automatically turn into fuel for you, I think you're in the wrong sport," Kittle said. "I'm ready to roll."

Raptors beat Pacers for team-record 12th straight win



Serge Ibaka had missed five of his six attempts from 3-point range, but didn't hesitate when it was time to take the biggest shot of the game.

Ibaka hit a go-ahead 3 with 30 seconds remaining and the Toronto Raptors rallied from 19 down to beat the Indiana Pacers 119-118 Wednesday night, setting a franchise record with their 12th consecutive victory.

"He deserved it because he's been working his tail off on his shooting," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said.

Kyle Lowry had 32 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds, and Ibaka scored a seasonhigh 30 as Toronto fought back after trailing by 11 with less than four minutes to play. The defending NBA champions scored the final 11 points of the game.

"We play 48 minutes," Lowry said. "That's how we play. We gave ourselves a chance, put the press on, made some shots, got aggressive and played better defense down the stretch."

Toronto's closing offense was pretty good, too. A trio of Raptors scored in double figures in the fourth, led by Ibaka's 15 points.

Clippers 128, Heat 111

In Los Angeles, once the Los Angeles Clippers figured out Miami's zone defense, their 3-point barrage was on.

Paul George and Landry Shamet each scored 23 points to lead eight Clippers in double figures, and Los Angeles beat the Heat 128-111 on Wednesday night for its third consecutive victory.

"We were moving the ball against the zone, getting the right shots. We just weren't making shots," said Shamet, who was 1 of 7 in the first half. "It all started to come together in the second half."

The Clippers made a franchise-record 24 3-pointers, their most since hitting 20 against Houston on Jan. 18, 2016.

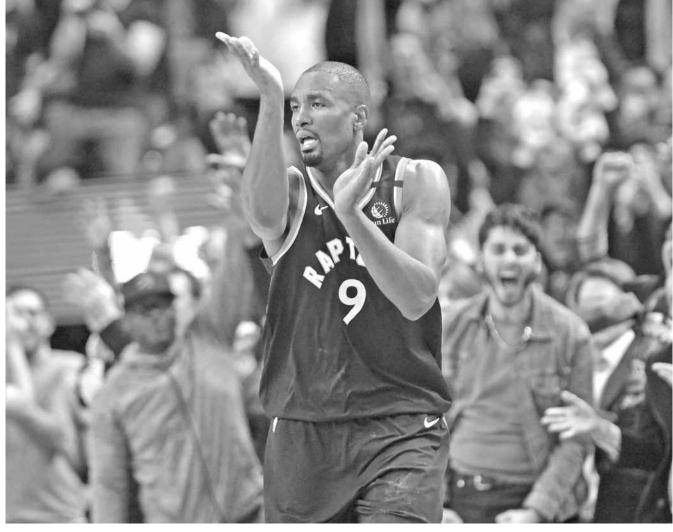
"It was a deluge, avalanche in that second half of 3s and we just couldn't get a handle on it," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It was one of the better 3-point shooting displays I've been on the other end of. Probably the biggest one."

Jimmy Butler didn't play in the fourth quarter for Miami after straining his right shoulder. He'll have an MRI on Thursday.

Nuggets 98, Jazz 95

In Salt Lake City, the Denver Nuggets had seven healthy players to face the Utah Jazz and believed they had nothing to lose.

Thanks to a noteworthy



performance by Nikola Jokic, the tired Nuggets overcame significant obstacles and recorded an improbable 98-95 victory over the Utah Jazz on Wednesday night.

"We were believing and we didn't want to let this game go. We have excuses. We have seven guys ... but we wanted to give ourselves a chance and give 100 percent of ourselves," said Jokic, who finished with 31 points, 21 rebounds and 10 assists.

According to the Elias Sports Bureau, Jokic is the 10th player with a 30-point, 20-rebound, 10-assist tripledouble in NBA history and just the second in 35 years (joining DeMarcus Cousins) to achieve the statistical feat in a win.

Grizzlies 121, Mavericks 107

In Dallas, the Memphis Grizzlies are making big strides on the court and significant moves off it.

Ja Morant scored 21 points, Jaren Jackson Jr. and Tyus Jones added 19 apiece, and the short-handed Grizzlies beat the Dallas Mavericks 121-107 on Wednesday night to move over .500 for the first time this season.

Dillon Brooks had 18 points for Memphis, which took advantage of Luka Doncic's absence for Dallas despite playing without forwards Jae Crowder and Solomon Hill. They left the team before the game due to pending trades that also included Andre Iguodala, who elected not to play for the Grizzlies after being acquired from Golden State

last offseason.

Justise Winslow is headed to Memphis from the Miami Heat in a deal for Iguodala, according to reports.

Brooks said he was glad that situation has been resolved. A few days ago, he said he welcomed the chance to play against Iguodala.

Pistons 116, Suns 108

In Detroit, Andre Drummond wasn't about to predict where he'd be playing in a couple days.

Your guess is as good as mine," he said. "I don't know what's going to happen. I'm going to go to sleep tonight and wake up and find out what happens."

Drummond had 31 points and 19 rebounds, and the Detroit Pistons handed the Phoenix Suns their fourth straight loss, 116-108 on Wednesday night.

There's been trade speculation about Drummond, and this was Detroit's last game before Thursday's trade deadline. He had 20 points and 11 rebounds by halftime and finished just two points shy of his career high.

He was asked afterward if the possibility of this being his last game with the Pistons had crossed his mind.

Hawks 127, Timberwolves 120

In Minneapolis, after a dizzying 24 hours, the Atlanta Hawks gave Clint Capela and the rest of their new teammates a glimpse of their young core's potential.

The Minnesota Timber-

wolves, meanwhile, struggled to find energy in their 13th straight loss, with their best defensive player, Robert Covington, already in his new city.

Trae Young had 38 points and 11 assists and John Collins added 27 points and 12 rebounds to lead Atlanta past Minnesota 127-120 Wednesday night, as both teams braced for major roster shifts.

Collins had his fifth straight double-double for the Hawks, who prepared to add Capela and Nene from Houston as part of Wednesday's fourteam, 12-player trade that will also send Covington and Jordan Bell from Minnesota to the Rockets.

Thunder 109. **Cavaliers 103**

In Oklahoma City, Chris Paul told Dennis Schroder to take over, and his backcourt mate listened.

Schroder scored 30 points to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 109-103 on Wednesday night.

Schroder had six points in a critical 43-second span late in the game that helped the Thunder grab control. Paul, an All-Star who usually is a primary scoring option late in close games, willingly deferred.

"Chris, he handled it well because he'd seen that I was aggressive, made a couple of shots, free throws, so he was like, 'Oh, you have it. Close the game," Schroder said. "When Chris Paul tells you that, it keeps you engaged,

you get more energy, you're getting a little hyped, and I finished it off."

It was Schroder's eighth straight game with at least 20 points. He was a reserve in seven of those games, including this one.

Celtics 116, Magic 100

In Boston, when the Celtics have needed an offensive lift this season, Jayson Tatum has Toronto Raptors center Serge Ibaka (9) reacts after making the winning basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 in Toronto.

often been the one to pick up the scoring load.

He did it again to help Boston fend off a Magic team fighting to stay in playoff contention.

Tatum scored 16 of his 33 points in the second half and the Celtics held off Orlando 116-100 on Wednesday night.

Gordon Hayward added 23 points and Jaylen Brown finished with 18 to help Boston win its fifth straight.

It was Tatum's sixth game this season with 30 or more

Nets 129, Warriors 88

In New York, Caris LeVert scored 23 points and the Brooklyn Nets gave D'Angelo Russell a bruising welcome back to Brooklyn with a 129-88 rout of the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday night in New York.

Russell got a nice ovation from fans, a tribute video from the Nets, and nothing else he'll want to remember about the night. He scored 17 points but was 0 of 8 from 3-point range and the Warriors were outscored by 29 points in his 18 first-half minutes.

Russell had two good seasons in Brooklyn and was a first-time All-Star last season.

Source: Iguodala getting traded to Miami

MIAMI (AP)—A person familiar with the negotiations says Andre Iguodala is headed to Miami after the Heat and Memphis Grizzlies agreed Wednesday night on his long-awaited trade.

As part of the deal, Iguodala agreed to a two-year extension, with the second of those years being a team option, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade has not been finalized.

The person also said Miami and Memphis were still working to complete terms of what the Heat are giving up in the deal, and that a third team-Oklahoma City, in a package that would include Danilo Gallinari potentially headed to the Heat—was still in play. Oft-injured forward Justise Winslow said he was part of the deal and was headed to Memphis, the former Heat starter reaching out to fellow former Duke players Tyus Jones and Grayson Allen with a message.

Jones and Allen are both members of the Grizzlies. Winslow has missed much of this season with a bone bruise in his back.

Iguodala, speaking to The Undefeated, said he was eager to play alongside Jimmy Butler and Miami's young core while helping mentor them as well.

"Jimmy Butler ... he's looked at as different but (is) very well-respected in terms of the passion and the hard work that he brings to the game," Iguodala said. "I feel like his temperament and values that he has really resonates with the Miami Heat. They're very well aligned. I think he's brought out the best in those young guys."

Butler cited Iguodala's reputation as a winner in what he brings to a team.

"He's super-smart. There's nothing that he cannot do," Butler said. "When I get to learn from him, when everyone gets to learn from him, that winning level, that meter, is going up in everyone's mind."

TUCO Tennis Tourna the boys U12 singl of this weekend's 2020 White Coconut Classic

CNMI

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"As a host country, I think most of you would appreciate, you really want to put in your best sports that would almost guarantee medals. That's how the host country always get a higher medal count from the previous Games when they adopt sports that they're good at."

To begin with, Tan said weightlifting and tennis should've been included in the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

"To a certain extent I cannot believe tennis and weightlifting were not included. That doesn't matter as we have the opportunity to add these two sports and we should move toward that so we had separate meetings with John [Davis] and Jeff [Race]," he said.

Davis is the president of the CNMI Weightlifting Federation, while Race heads the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

If the Pacific Games Council green-lights the addition of tennis in the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, Race said they hopefully would use two venuesthe American Memorial Park in Garapan and the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio.

Luckily, the management of the AMP plans to resurface its tennis courts and it will be done in time for the Pacific Mini Games.

Race also said gold medalists from last year's Pacific Games

in Apia, Samoa—Colin Sinclair and Robbie Schorr—will again spearhead the CNMI's medal hopes in the 2021 edition of the quadrennial event.

"We're absolutely going to win medals. I told you guys before that if we didn't win medals in the 2019 Pacific Games then I was going to eat my hat and I still got it!" said Race, while raising his blue ballcap.

Davis, for his part, said the weightlifting federation needs equipment and a spacious venue. "Weightlifting is a sport that needs a lot of space to put on a competition."

Tan said it is NMSA's hope that the Pacific Games Council will approve their petition to add the two sports in the calendar of events for next year's Pacific Mini Games.

"Most important is these are two good, solid programs that showed successful results in previous Games and we want them to be in the Mini Games. That's why we reached out to [longtime NMSA board member] John Hirsh and Jeff to make sure that they want to be part of the Games and fortunately they said 'yes' and so we're moving toward that...Hopefully will have that done and we'll have eight sports instead of just six."

The six sports the CNMI originally committed to stage for next year's Pacific Mini Games are athletics, baseball, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, and triathlon.

White-Coconut Classic to start this weekend

By MARK RABAGO

mark rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will hold its 2020 White-Coconut Classic starting this weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts

A total of 13 divisions will be contested in the five-day tournament—men's singles, women's singles, men's 40 & over singles, women's 40 & over singles, mixed up doubles, boys U16, U14, U12, and U10 singles, and girls U16, U14, U12, and U10 singles. In the men's singles, the top seed is Robbie Schorr, followed by Jimin Woo, T.J. Bellama, and Ken Song. Schorr is coming off a boys U18 singles ment.

In the women's singles, Lydia Tan earned the no. 1 seed with Elizabeth Culp getting the No. 2. Sarka Jambor, Jinhui Jeong, Seon Hee Kim, and Yuko Kumada make up the rest of the field.

Jeff Race and Hoo Wang banner the mixed-up doubles as the top seed, while Jimin Woo and Seo Hee Lee are the No. 2 seeds. June Yu and Ji Hwan Ryu are seeded No. 3, while Takeru Jim and Ken Song are No. 4.

In the boys U10 singles, Ian Chae and Landon Pudney are the Top 2 seeds, while Eun Been Hwang and Eliza Culp

championship in the recently concluded SIS at tively, in the girls U10 STUCO Tennis Tournasingles.

Nason Wessel, Yutaka Kadokura, Simon Tang,

Ki Won Lee are the Top 4 seeds in the boys U12 singles. Irin Chung is the top seed in the girls U12 singles with Jieun Anna Kwon the second seed.

In the boys U14 singles, June Yu is the No. 1 seed with Wataru Kadokura the No. 2 seed. Incidentally, the two also faced off in the finals of the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament with Yu winning in two sets.

In the girls U14 singles, best friends Helen Kim and Serin Chung are the top seeds in the division. Kim won the finals of the same division in the recent SIS tourney at the expense of her Saipan International School classmate.

Newly crowned SIS tourney boys U16 champion Andy Kim leads the field in the boys U16 singles, followed by No. 2 David Kwon. In the men's 40 & over, the top 2 seeds are Brian Wessel and Gary Ramsey.

All matches check-in will be at the AMP tennis courts and playdates are Feb. 8, 9, 15, 16, and 17. All players are reminded to bring a water bottle and to arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled match.

For more information on the 2020 White-Coconut Classic, call tournament coordinator Jeff Race at 483-5652 or email raceaces@yahoo.com.

McFun Run on Feb. 22

The Rotary Club of Saipan will hold its 6th Annual Mc-Fun 5K Run on Feb. 22 with registration set at 5:30am and start time at 6:15am.

Sponsored by McDonald's Saipan and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, the 5-kilometer run will start at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan and will have its turnaround at Star Water Company.

Registration is \$15 for adults and \$10 for participants 17 years old and below. The first 200 registrants will get a 6th Annual McFun 5K Run T-shirt.

Interested participants can get registration forms at

McDonald's Saipan's headquarters in Dandan, MegaByte Saipan, the office of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems,

Inc., and from Rotary Club of Saipan members.

An awards ceremony will be held for top finishers, with prizes to be presented. Refreshments will also be distributed while supplies last. All proceed will go to the community projects of the Rotary Club of Saipan. (Mark Rabago)



Tony Raho nears the finish line of the running portion of last month's 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run at the Kilili Beach Park.

CAROL

From Page 32

ning in the same score, 4-1, before winning the tiebreak by the skin of their teeth,

Wang and Tsukagoshi booked a ticket to the championship round after a similar three-set thriller against Yutaka Kadokura and Hannah Chae, 2-4, 5-3, 10-9. They started off with a 3-4, 4-0, 11-9 nipping of Wataru Kadokura and Landon Pudnev.

Chung and Lee made the championship appearance after beating Nason Wessel and Jace Choi, 4-2, 4-2. Earlier, the pair upended Takeru Jin and Ji Hun Park, 4-2, 5-3.

The Saipan International School student council organized the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament. It was held to fundraise for the school's many activities, including prom. SIS student and CNMI junior national player Malika Miyawaki coordinated the entire tournament with the help of CNMI national tennis coach and sports hall of famer Jeff Race.

Miyawaki would like to

thank the SIS tourney sponsors, namely Topnotch, Nam Dae Mon, Sura, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Kanoa Resort, The Shack Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Subway, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Café De Hei, Ice 2 C U, Asian Airlines, Paris Croissant, Chungiwa, Ete Café, Athlete's Foot, and DFS Galleria Saipan.

PPG

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Ebuen then did his best fireman impersonation in the payoff period, firing another 10 points, including two triples, as PPG Paint made all the right plays during crucial moments of the endgame and hung on to the 4-point victory.

For scoring 25 points, Ebuen was named best player of the game with Elchico ably supporting him with 16 of his own. Saipan Vegas, which now sports the same 1-6 record of PPG Paint, was led by the 22 points of Cortez and 16 of Bisana.

In the first game of the open division, Islander Rent A Car ran roughshod over Saipan Vegas, 90-63. Jose Torres paced the now 3-4 team with 18 points en route to earning best player of the game honors. Ken Viray and Mark Mintac backstopped him with 16 markers apiece.

Saipan Vegas dropped to 1-6 and was led by the gamehigh 24 of Leo Galarse.

In the other open division matchup of the evening, Hoopaholics won a battle of attrition against AK Toyota Wheels, 65-58.

In a low-scoring, defensive game Hoopaholics led 19-7 after one quarter of play, opened a 36-23 spread at halftime before allowing AK Toyota Wheels to creep back in the game in the second half.

Hoopaholics managed to stay afloat in the fourth and final quarter thanks in large

part to Eli Aughenbaugh as the bull-strong forward scattered 8 of his team-high 13 in the period to stave off AK Toyota Wheels.

The win improved Hoopaholics' record to 4-3, while the loss was the sixth in seven outings for AK Toyota Wheels, which was led by the 18 markers of Frank Ferrer.

First Game

Islander Rent A Car 90 -Torres 18, Viray 13, Mintac 13, Pastrona 12, Barrios 10, Mangali 9, Standish 8, Ramon 5, Andrew 2.

Saipan Vegas 63 – Galarse 24, Natividad 11, Bisana 8, Deleon Guerrero 7, Esteban 4, Sahagon 4, Ogumoro 2, Tenepere 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-

12, 42-35, 64-51, 90-63.

Second Game

PPG Paint 74 – Ebuen 25, Elchico 16, Galulu 8, Delrio 8, Montoyo 6, Moreno 2, Salazar 2, Samson 1.

Saipan Vegas 70 – Cortez 22, Bisana 16, Abel 16, Moises 8, Park 8, Barreto 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-8, 39-44, 59-54, 74-70.

Third Game

Hoopaholics 65 - Aughenbaugh 13, Deleon Guerrero 11, Manibusan 10. Lauron 8. Tenorio 6, Mendez 4, Cabrera 2, Lee 2.

AK Toyota Wheels 58 -Ferrer 18, Breenan 16, Camacho 6, Coldeen 6, Liles 5. Boswell 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-7, 36-23, 54-46, 65-59.

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Rose asks for reinstatement, cites Astros and steroids

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Raptors beat Pacers for team-record 12th straight wi PAGE 30

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

2021 PACIFIC MINI GAMES

CNMI hopes to add 2 more sports

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

he new leadership of the Northern Marianas Sports Association will ask the Pacific Games Council to add weightlifting and tennis in the sports that will be offered when Saipan hosts the XI Pacific Mini Games next year.

"Weightlifting and tennis are two sports that we reached out to and we hope to increase from six to eight the number of sports for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games," said NMSA president Jerry Tan during last night's monthly membership meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Since you can only add sports from the inaugural Mini Games held in Honiara,



PPG Paint forward Sonny Ebuen was named best player of the game during their against Saipan Vegas in the masters division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium

PPG Paint finally gets first victory

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

PPG Paint finally tasted Bisana, however, played victory after seven games by scoring a breakthrough 74-70 🖁 victory against Saipan Vegas in the masters division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The erstwhile winless squad started off like a house on fire as forward Sonny Ebuen pumped in 13 points in the first 10 minutes of action to give PPG Paint a 17-8 lead after a quarter of play. Dennis Cortez and Cecilio

spoilers for Saipan Vegas as the two shot the lights out in the second quarter to turn the tables on PPG Paint and take a 44-39 lead at the half.

PPG Paint would fight back in the third quarter, as Jojo Elchico would preside over a rally that would allow them to get back the lead and enter the fourth and final quarter ahead 59-54.

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Solomon Islands in 1981, the CNMI is limited on the sports it can add.

"The only sports that we can add back based on my understanding are the original 12 sports. Weightlifting and tennis are part of the original 12,"

said Tan.

The NMSA president said it's in the best interest of the CNMI to put on sporting events that its athletes could be competitive in and earn medals from.

See CNMI on Page 31

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, third

from right, and the rest of the NMSA board pose for a group photo after the NMSA membership meeting last night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. From left, board member James Lee, board member Laurie Peterka, vice president Ramon Tebuteb, secretary Valerie Hofschneider, board member (athlete) Liamwar Rangamar, Tan, board member Nick Gross, and treasurer

Carol, Helen claim U18 doubles

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Oceania's top female junior netter Carol Lee up-and-comer Helen Kim won the U18 doubles of the SIS STUCO Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Lee and Kim went up against Juncheol Hwang and Lee's brother Sean in the finals and needed a tiebreak in the opening set before prevailing in a score of 7-6 (6-3), 6-4.

The duo advanced to the finals after beating Andy Kim and Steven Goodwin, 4-0, 4-2. Carol Lee and Kim debuted against Andrew Chung and Jimin Woo and were tested before avoiding the upset axe, 1-4, 4-2, 10-2.

Hwang and Sean Lee made it into the championship round following a 5-3, 4-0 victory

over Serin Chung and Ken Song. They began the division by overcoming Robbie Schorr and Seiyul Hong, 2-4, 5-3,

In the U12 doubles, Hoo Wang and Lina Tsukagoshi endured three-set matches in all three of its games in the division en route to winning the championship.

Wang and Tsukagoshi had to rally against Irin Chung and Anne Lee in the finals. Chung and Lee surprised the favored pair in the opening set, 4-1, but Wang and Tsukagoshi regained their bearings in the second set win-

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